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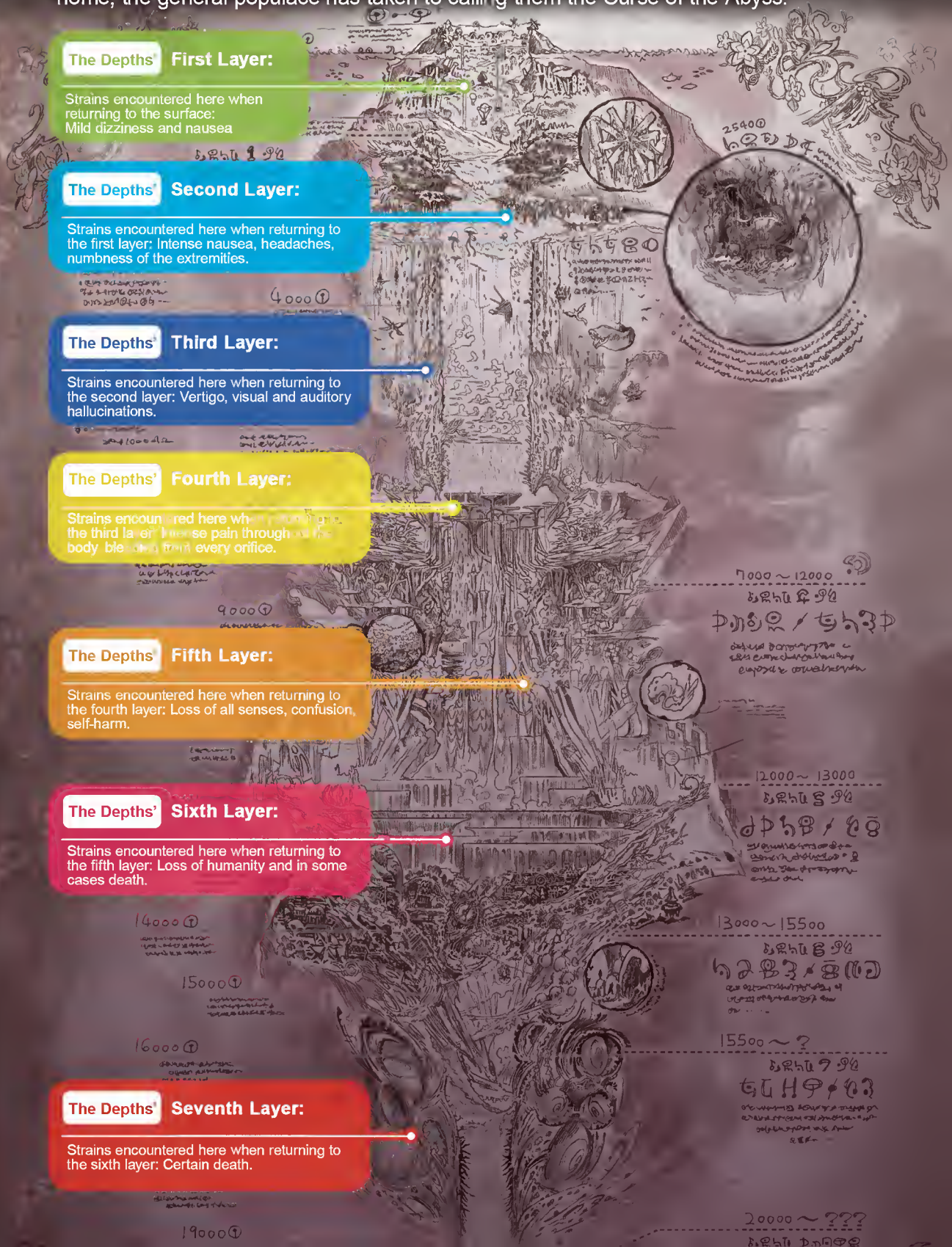
MADE IN ABYSS 01

MADE IN ABYSS
1
story & art
AKIHITO TSUKUSHI

THE CURSE OF THE ABYSS

This refers to the strains experienced in the Abyss that only occur when ascending. The more proper name for these is “strains of ascending.” However, as their true cause is a mystery and they seem to prevent those who venture deep into the pit from returning home, the general populace has taken to calling them the Curse of the Abyss.



The Depths' First Layer:

Strains encountered here when returning to the surface: Mild dizziness and nausea

The Depths' Second Layer:

Strains encountered here when returning to the first layer: Intense nausea, headaches, numbness of the extremities.

The Depths' Third Layer:

Strains encountered here when returning to the second layer: Vertigo, visual and auditory hallucinations.

The Depths' Fourth Layer:

Strains encountered here wh[illegible] the third la[illegible] [illegible]ense pain through[illegible] body ble[illegible] from every orifice.

The Depths' Fifth Layer:

Strains encountered here when returning to the fourth layer: Loss of all senses, confusion, self-harm.

The Depths' Sixth Layer:

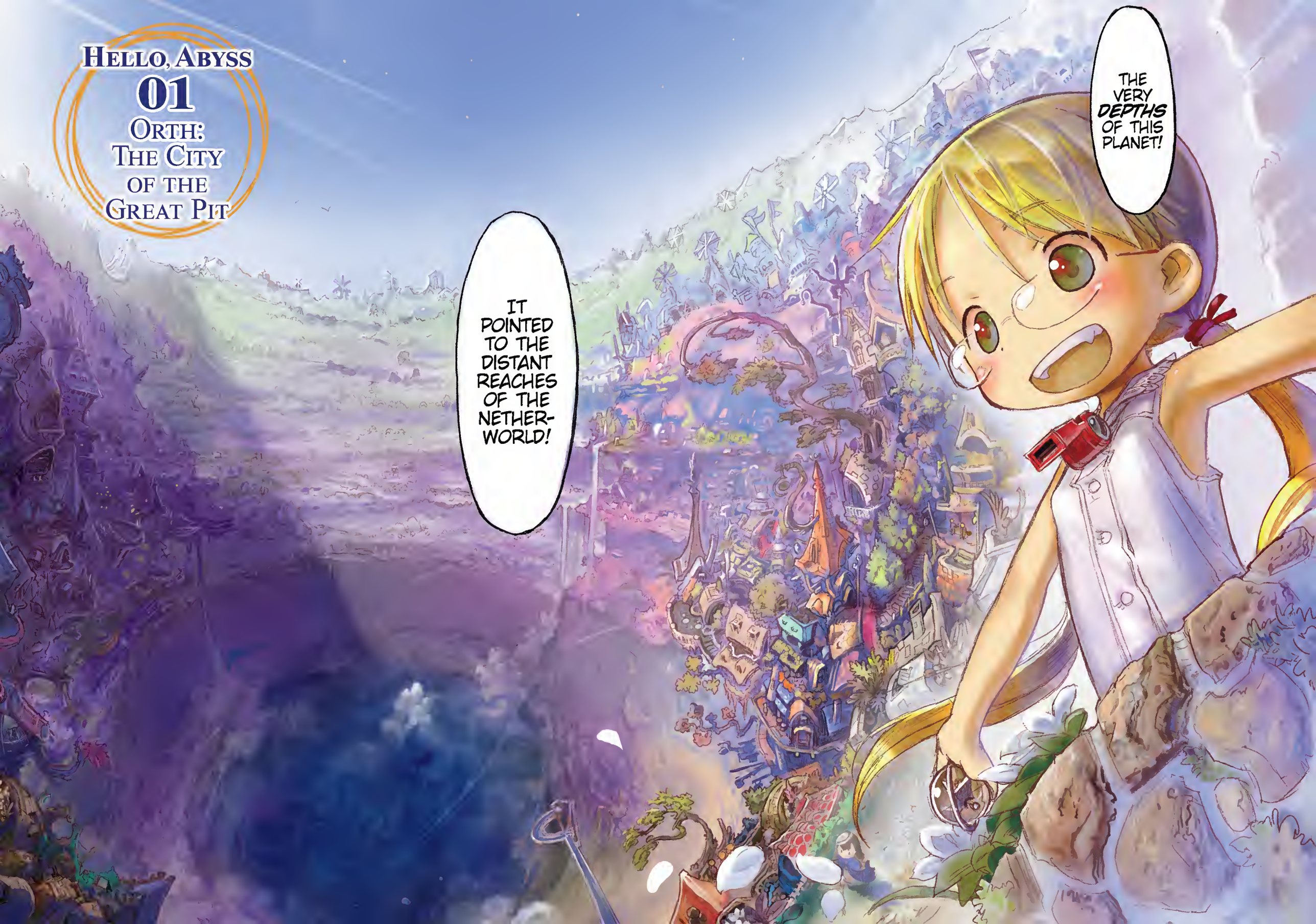
Strains encountered here when returning to the fifth layer: Loss of humanity and in some cases death.

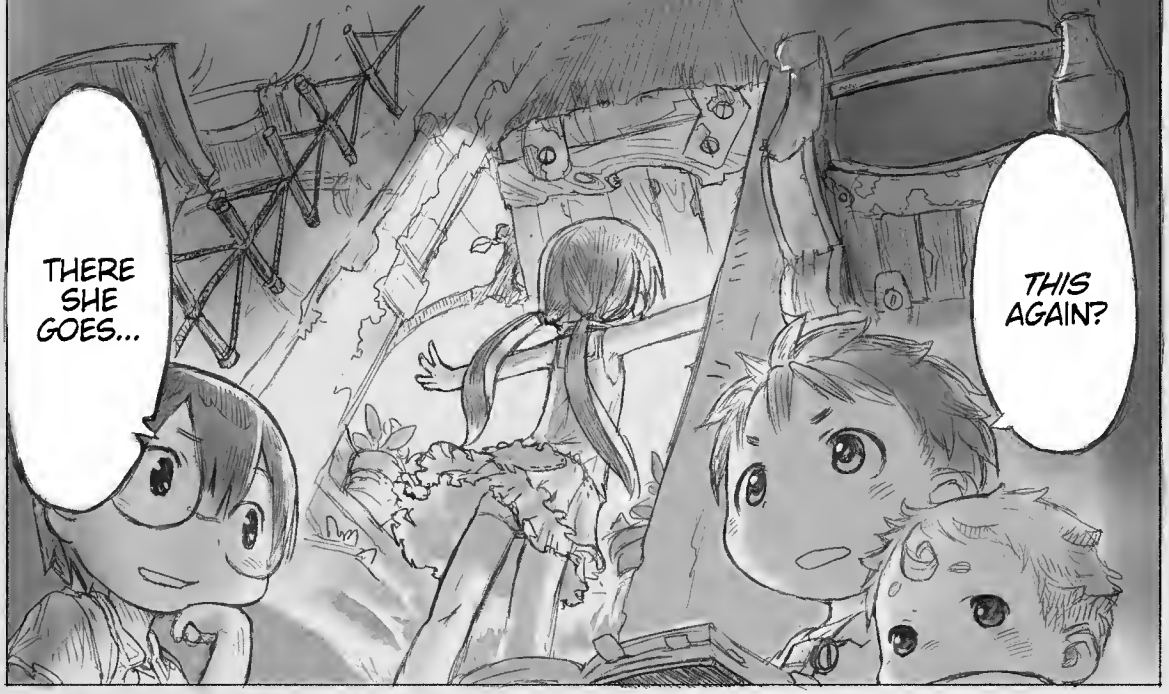
The Depths' Seventh Layer:

Strains encountered here when returning to the sixth layer: Certain death.

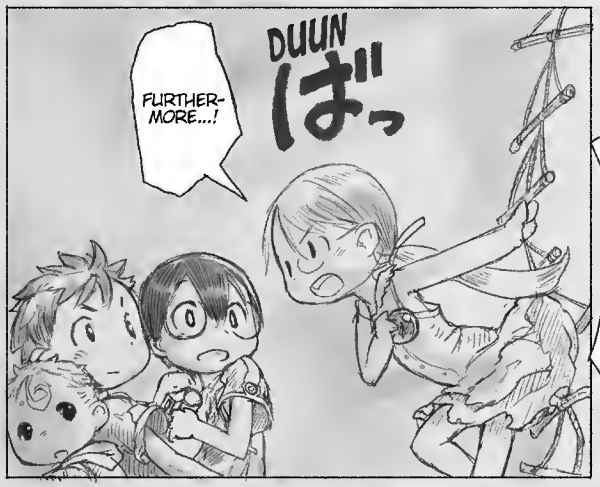
THE STAR COMPASS.
A MYSTERIOUS INSTRUMENT THAT ALWAYS POINTS TO THE FAR REACHES OF THE SKY:
ITS NEEDLE GUIDES TO THINGS BEYOND ONE'S GRASP...
BUT ACTUALLY SERVES ONE MORE PURPOSE.
WHAT THIS NEEDLE BECKONED TOWARD...
WAS NOT THE FAR REACHES OF THE HEAVENS...
BUT IN FACT TO THEIR EXACT OPPO-SITE...

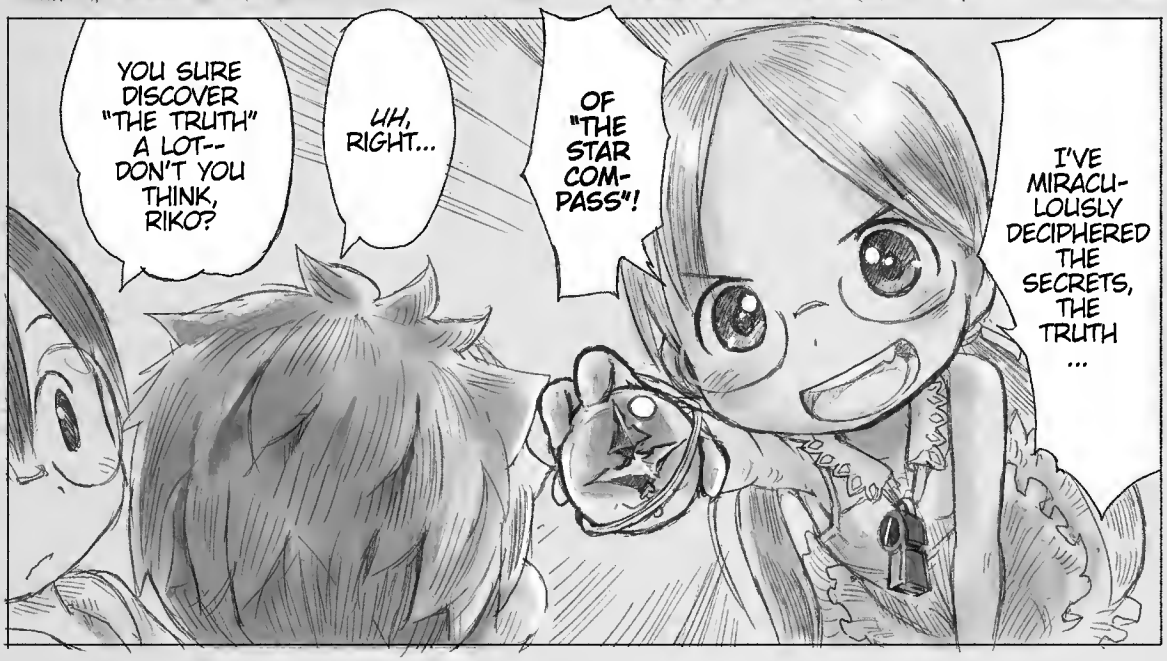
Hello, Abyss
01
Orth: The City of the Great Pit




THIS AGAIN?
THERE SHE GOES...

FWP
THAT'S RIGHT!
YEAH, I'M AT IT AGAIN!


DUUN
ばっ
FURTHER-MORE...!


I'VE MIRACU-LOUSLY DECIPHERED THE SECRETS, THE TRUTH ...
OF "THE STAR COM-PASS"!
UH, RIGHT...
YOU SURE DISCOVER "THE TRUTH" A LOT-- DON'T YOU THINK, RIKO?

YESTERDAY, IT WAS ...

THIS IS A TOOL TO FIGURE OUT THE CORRECT ANGLE OF AN INCLINE!

OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

YEAH, EXACTLY. AND THEN YOU CHASED AFTER THE TRUTH WHEN IT BOUNCED AWAY.

FIRST OF ALL, THOSE AREN'T EVEN COMPASS BEARINGS.

YOU DON'T NEED THAT THING TO TELL WHICH WAY'S UP OR DOWN.

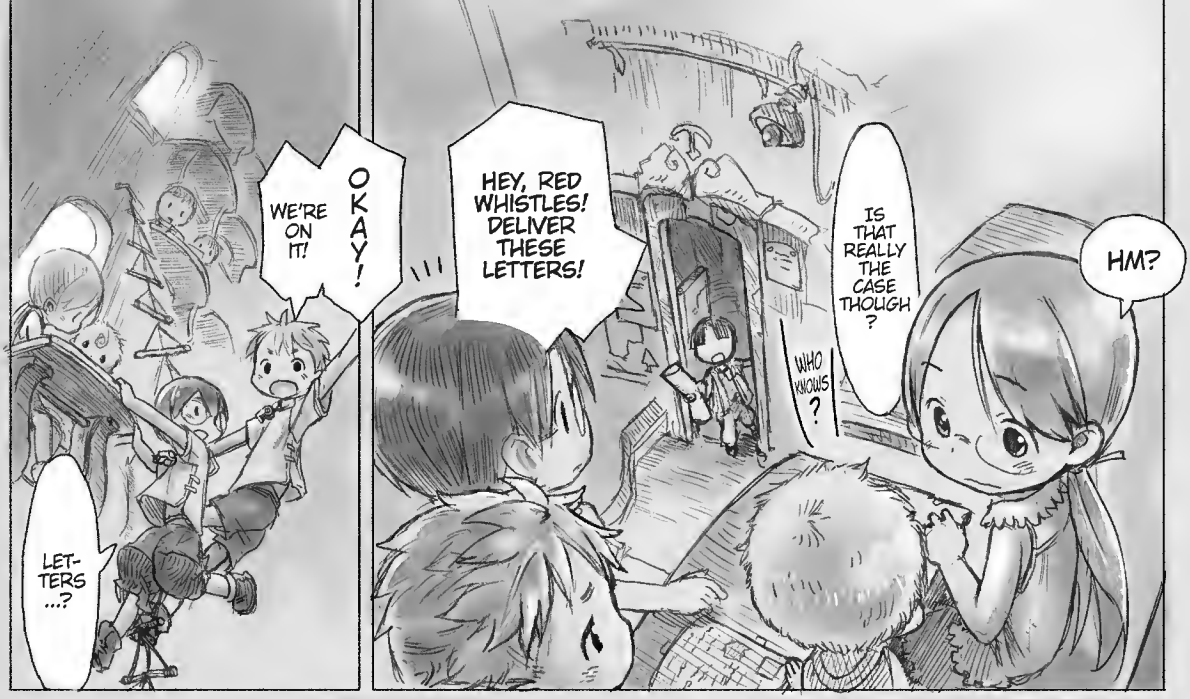
YOU CAN TELL BY JUST *LOOKING*, RIGHT?

THAT PARTICULAR TRUTH WAS, *UH*... IT WASN'T ADVENTUROUS ENOUGH-- IT **DOESN'T COUNT!**

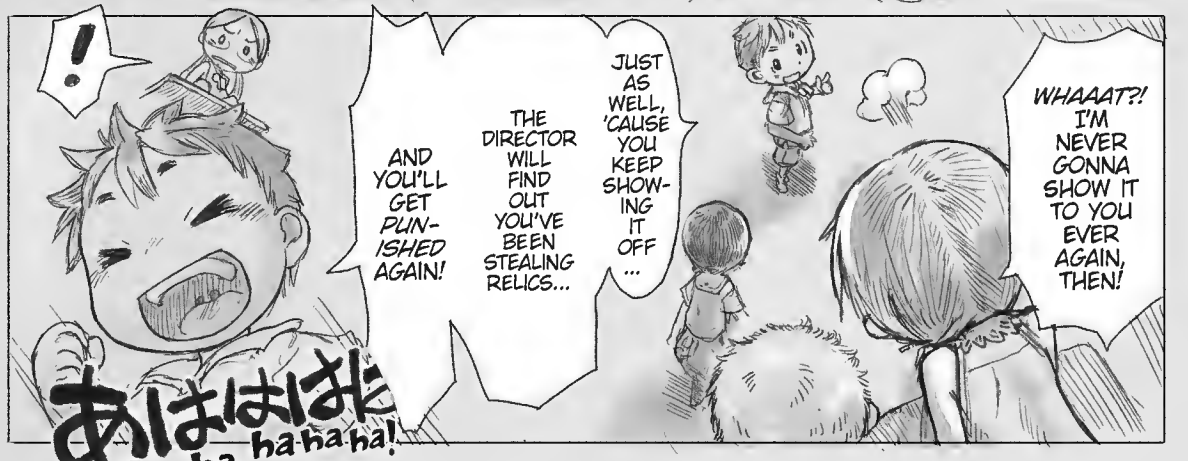
THE TRUTH ISN'T SOMETHING YOU CAN JUST CHANGE ON A WHIM.

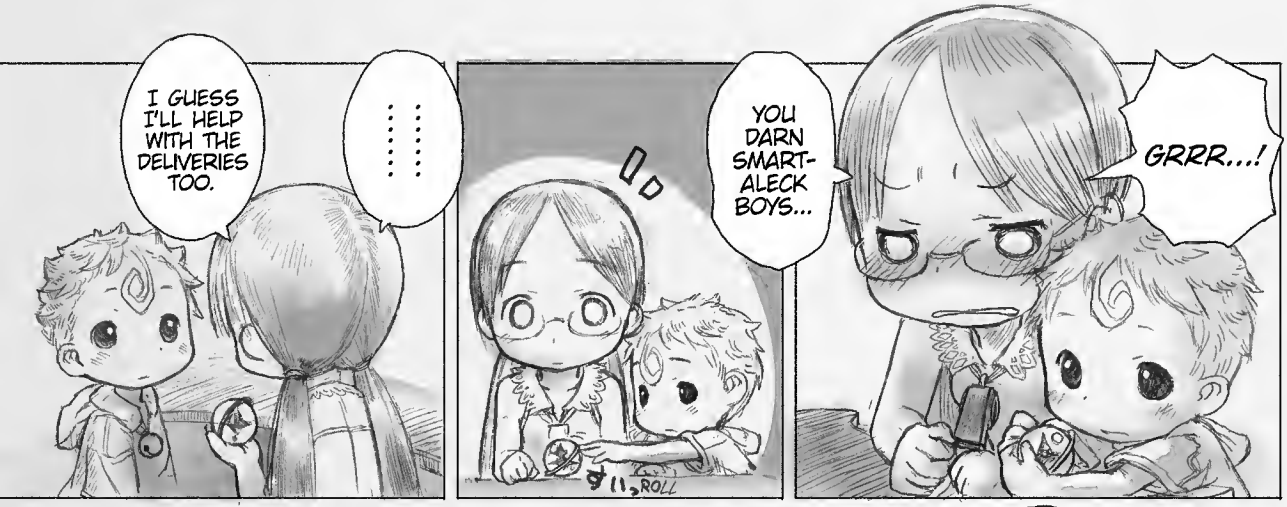
BUT THIS TIME ...!

NOPE, NOPE, NOPE!

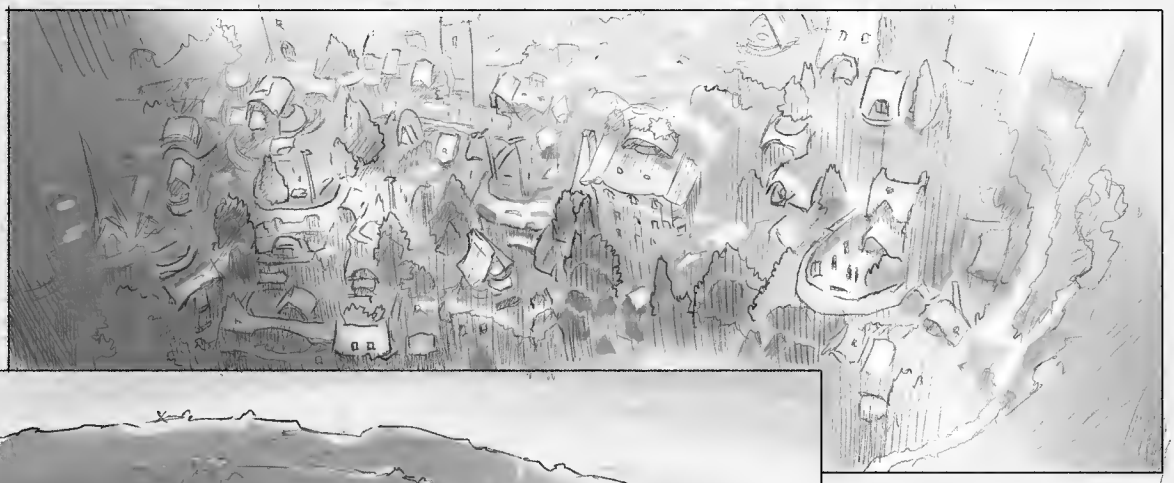

LET-TERS ...?
WE'RE ON IT!
OKAY!
HEY, RED WHISTLES! DELIVER THESE LETTERS!
WHO KNOWS?
IS THAT REALLY THE CASE THOUGH?
HM?

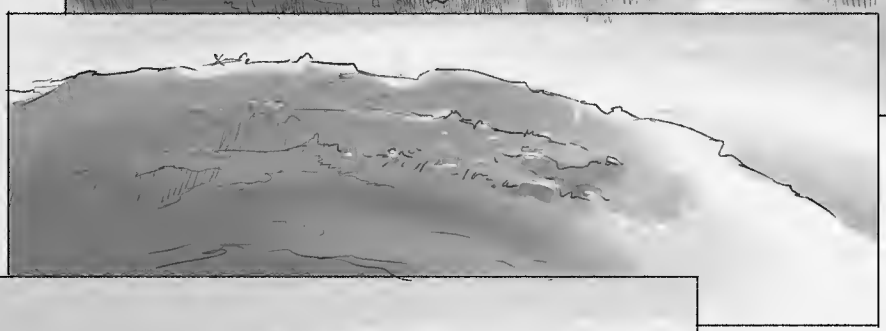
REALLY?!
FOR-GET THIS USE-LESS TRUTH STUFF-- LET'S GO!
WAIT --!
AH!
THERE MIGHT EVEN BE SOME-THING FROM THE BLACK WHISTLES!
THE SURVEY TEAM'S MAIL BALLOON MIGHT'VE ARRIVED!


!
AND YOU'LL GET PUN-ISHED AGAIN!
THE DIRECTOR WILL FIND OUT YOU'VE BEEN STEALING RELICS...
JUST AS WELL, 'CAUSE YOU KEEP SHOW-ING IT OFF ...
WHAAAT?! I'M NEVER GONNA SHOW IT TO YOU EVER AGAIN, THEN!
あはははは
Ah ha ha-ha-ha!

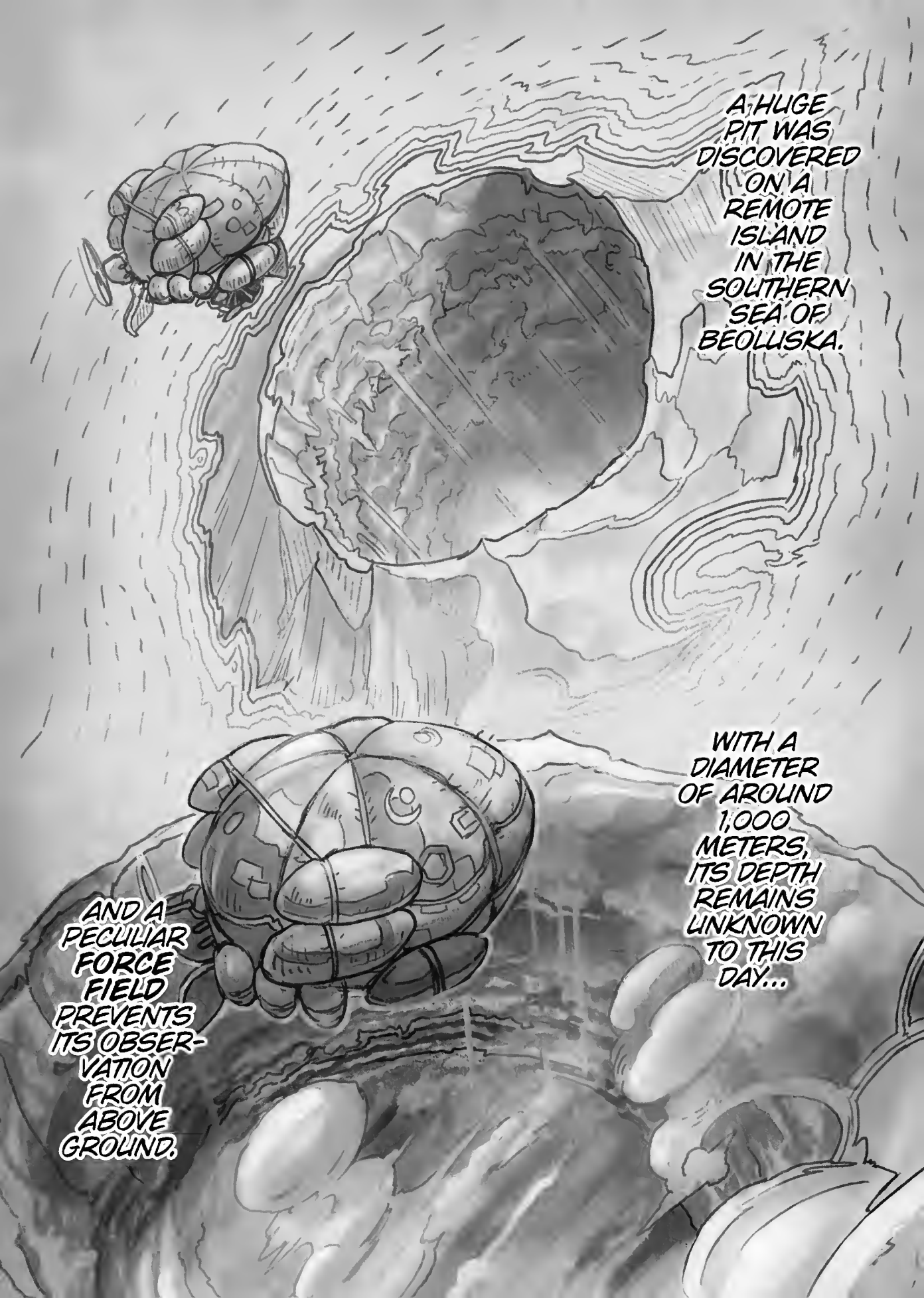

I GUESS I'LL HELP WITH THE DELIVERIES TOO.
.....
YOU DARN SMART-ALECK BOYS...
ROLL
GRRR...!

YOU WANNA COME WITH, KIYUI?
OKAY!



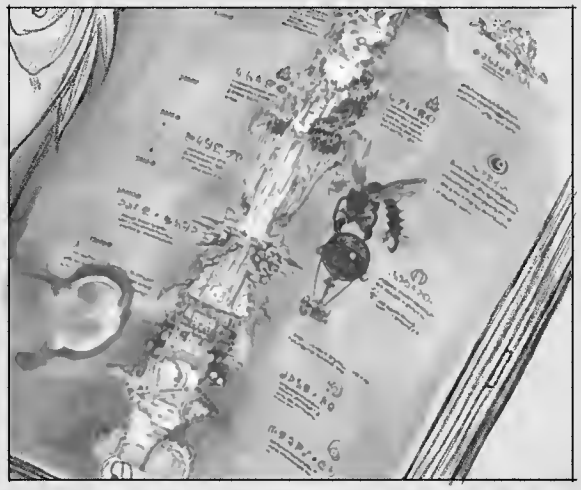


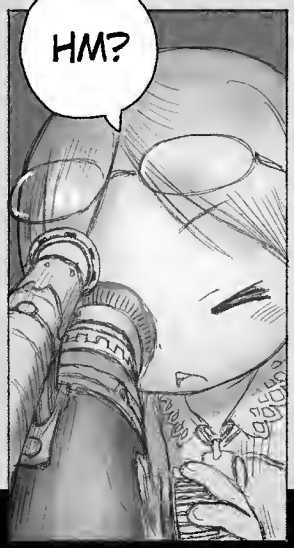
GRRROOOOOO
ゴオオオオ
1,900 YEARS AGO...


A HUGE PIT WAS DISCOVERED ON A REMOTE ISLAND IN THE SOUTHERN SEA OF BEOLUSKA.
WITH A DIAMETER OF AROUND 1,000 METERS, ITS DEPTH REMAINS UNKNOWN TO THIS DAY...
AND A PECULIAR FORCE FIELD PREVENTS ITS OBSERVATION FROM ABOVE GROUND.

THOSE WHO CHALLENGED THE GIANT PIT BEGAN TO BE REFERRED TO AS "CAVE RAIDERS."
EARLY ON, THOSE MYSTERY-LADEN SIGHTS LURED MYRIAD ADVENTURERS, EACH CHASING THE DREAM OF STRIKING IT RICH.
SURVEYING IS THEREFORE CARRIED OUT IN PERSON.
THE SURVEYORS DELIVER THEIR REPORTS TO THE SURFACE FROM DEEP INSIDE THE GIANT PIT BY LAUNCHING MAIL BALLOONS.
RIGHT AROUND THE TIME THAT NAME STUCK, THEIR BASES ON THE SURFACE GREW TO SUCH A NUMBER, THEY SURRONDED THE ENTIRE CIRCUMFERENCE OF THE PIT.
THE CITY THEY EVENTUALLY FORMED IS SAID TO HAVE IN TIME BECOME ORTH, THE PLACE WE CALL HOME.
1000
2000
3000
100
1000
12000
②

SNORE...

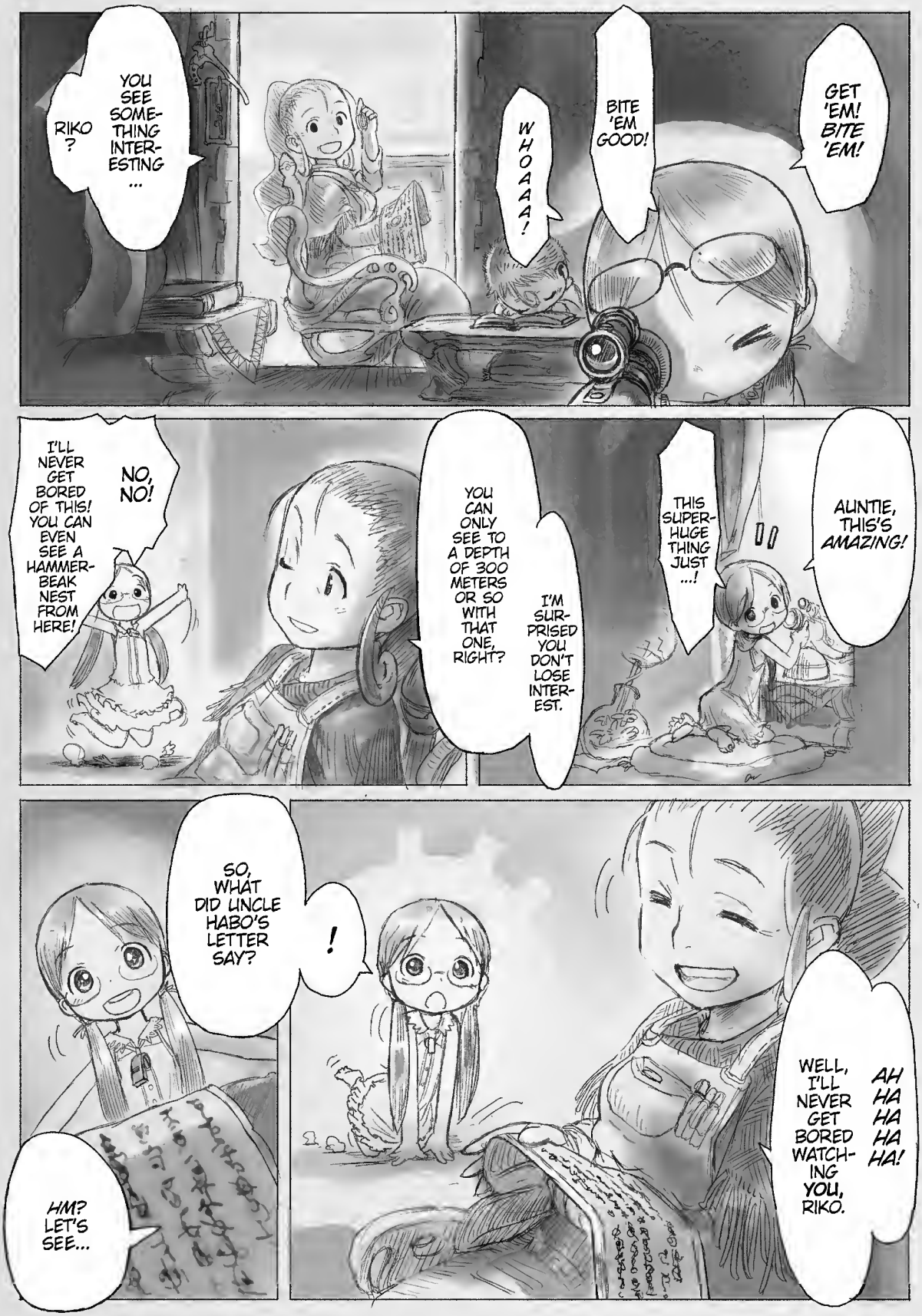


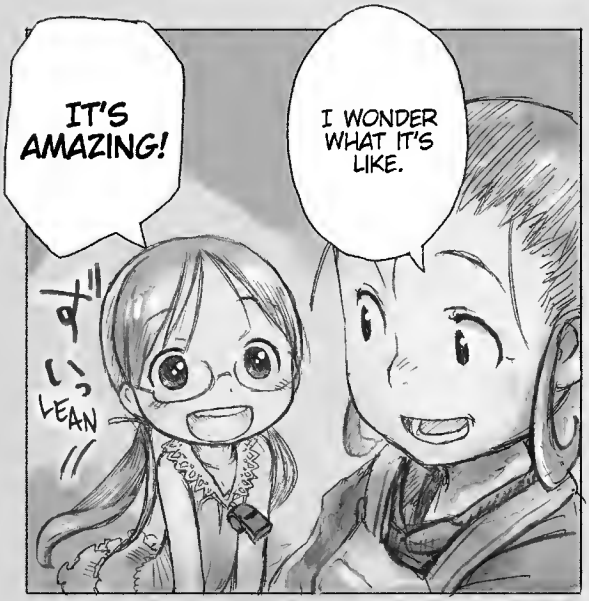

HM?

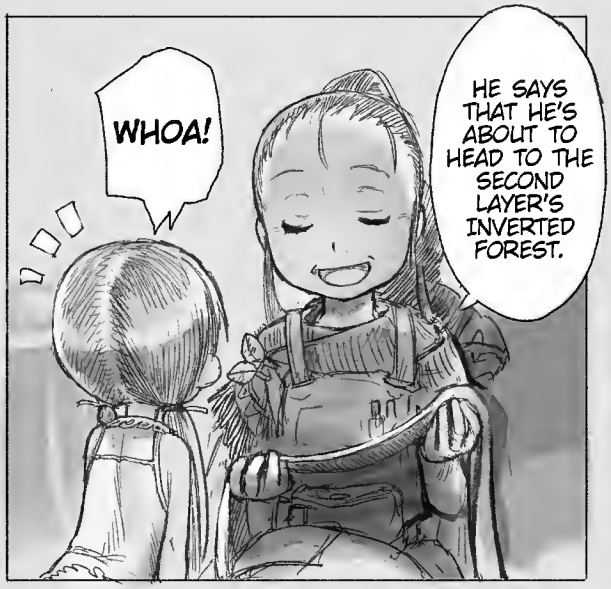
MUMBLE...

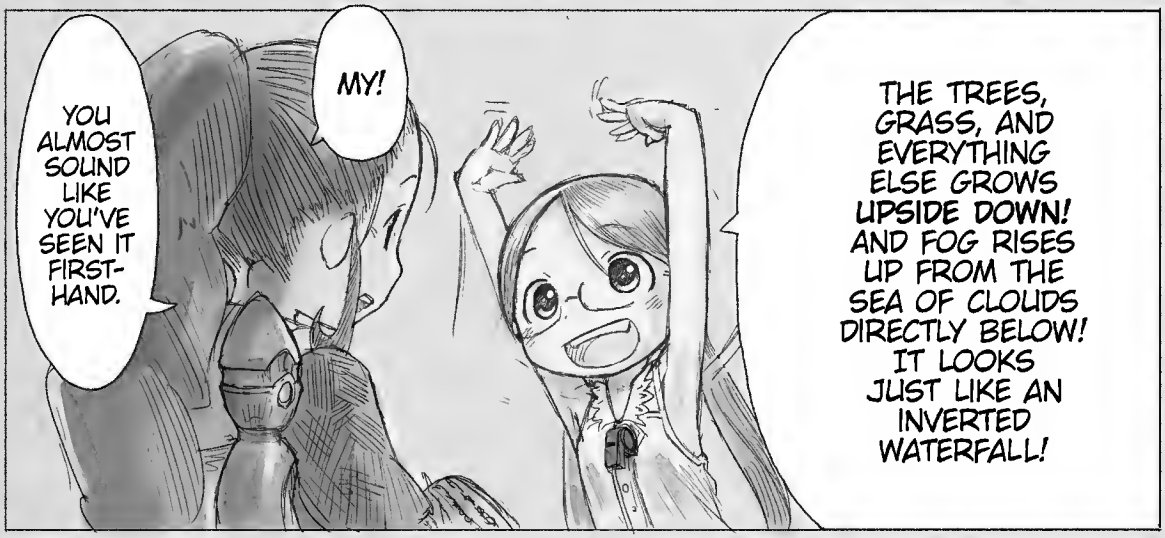
HAMMER-BEAK CHICKS!

IT SWALLOWED UP THAT HAMMER-BEAK!
WH-WHAT WAS THAT?! IT WAS HUGE!
AAH!
CHOMP
CREAK
!
WHERE DID...?
I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE LIKE THAT BEFORE!
OH...
WHOAA!
THE HAMMER-BEAKS ARE FIGHTING BACK NOW!
THERE!
WHOA!

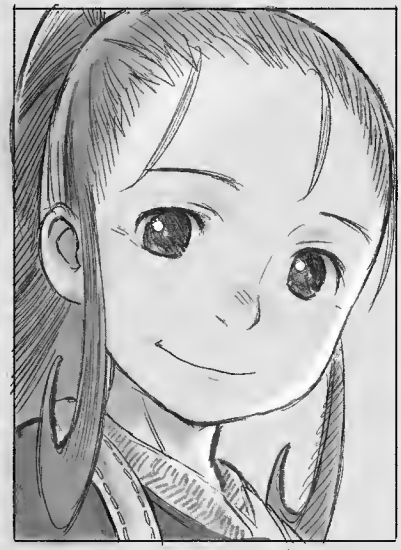

GET 'EM! BITE 'EM!
BITE 'EM GOOD!
WHOAAA!
YOU SEE SOMETHING INTERESTING ...
RIKO ?
AUNTIE, THIS'S AMAZING!
THIS SUPER-HUGE THING JUST ...!
I'M SURPRISED YOU DON'T LOSE INTEREST.
YOU CAN ONLY SEE TO A DEPTH OF 300 METERS OR SO WITH THAT ONE, RIGHT?
NO, NO!
I'LL NEVER GET BORED OF THIS! YOU CAN EVEN SEE A HAMMER-BEAK NEST FROM HERE!
AH HA HA HA HA!
WELL, I'LL NEVER GET BORED WATCHING YOU, RIKO.
!
SO, WHAT DID UNCLE HABO'S LETTER SAY?
HM? LET'S SEE...

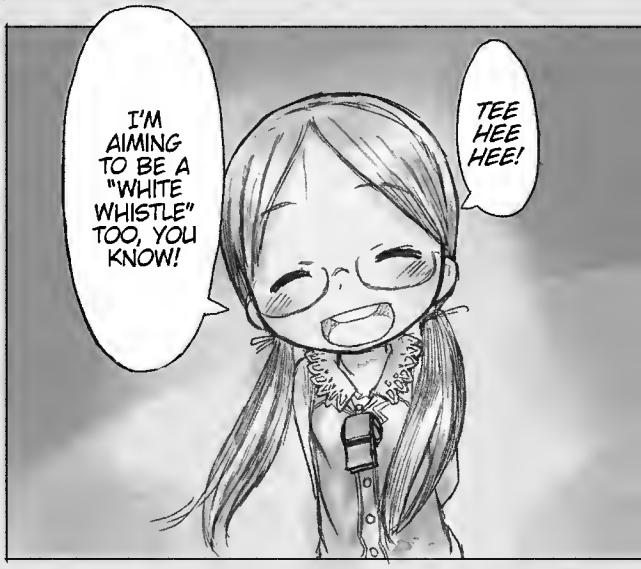

IT'S AMAZING!
I WONDER WHAT IT'S LIKE.
すごい
LEAN


WHOA!
HE SAYS THAT HE'S ABOUT TO HEAD TO THE SECOND LAYER'S INVERTED FOREST.

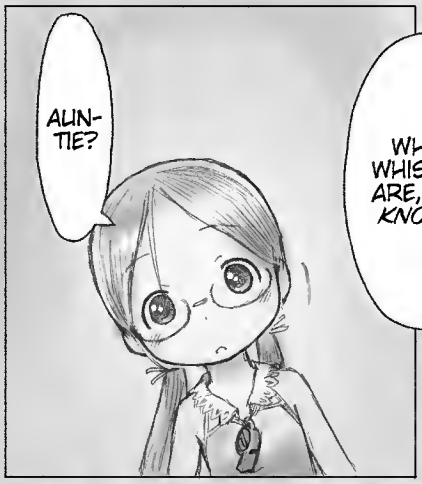

YOU ALMOST SOUND LIKE YOU'VE SEEN IT FIRST-HAND.
MY!
THE TREES, GRASS, AND EVERYTHING ELSE GROWS UPSIDE DOWN! AND FOG RISES UP FROM THE SEA OF CLOUDS DIRECTLY BELOW! IT LOOKS JUST LIKE AN INVERTED WATERFALL!

AH, THAT'S RIGHT.




I'M AIMING TO BE A "WHITE WHISTLE" TOO, YOU KNOW!
TEE HEE HEE!

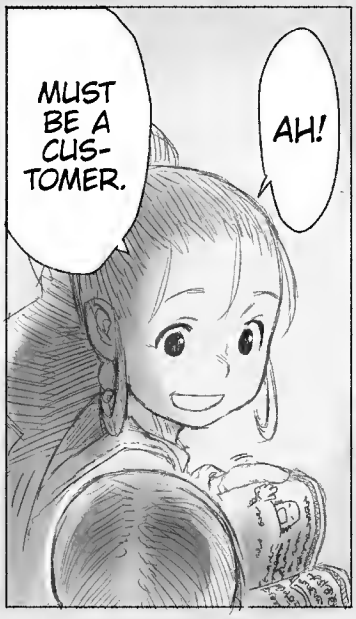
MY HABO WANTS TO BECOME ONE TOO, EVEN THOUGH HE'S GETTING ON IN YEARS.
BUT... IS BEING ONE REALLY ALL THAT GREAT?

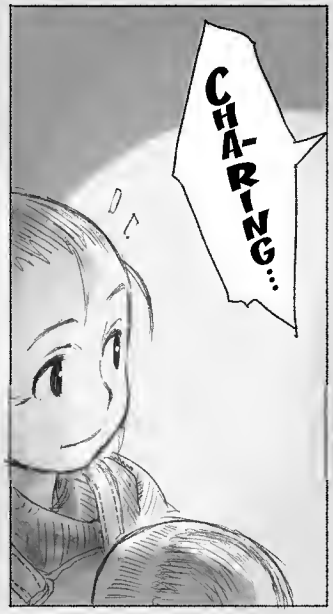

AUN-TIE?

WHITE WHISTLES ARE, YOU KNOW...

IT'S NOT VERY NICE OF ME TO SAY THIS, BUT...

WEL-COME!

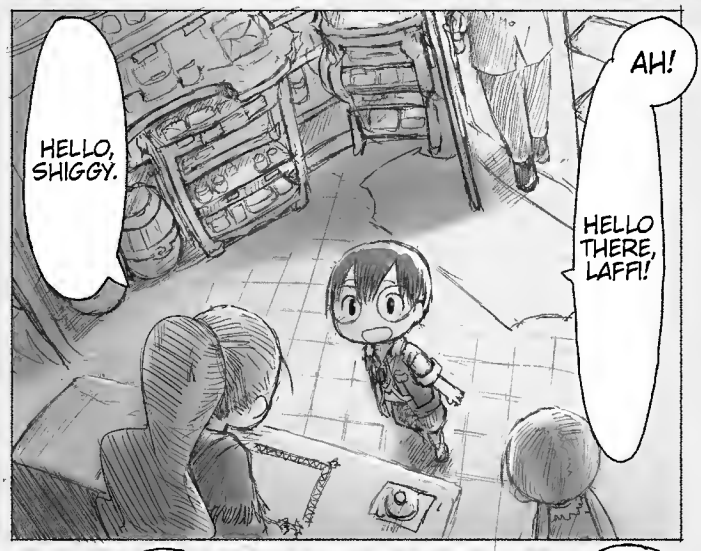

AH!
MUST BE A CUS-TOMER.

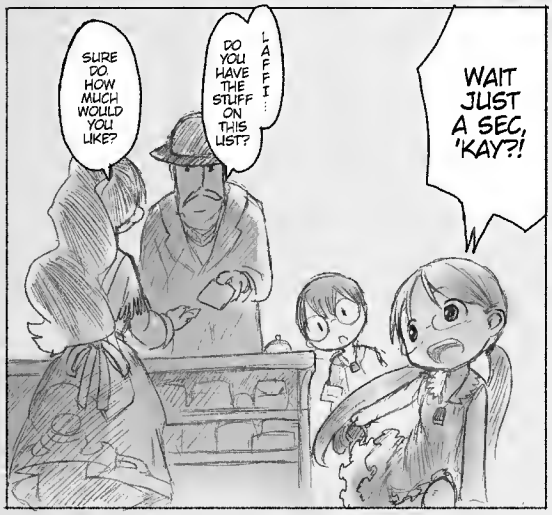

CHA-RING...

WELL NOW ...
I SEE WE HAVE A CUTE LITTLE VISITOR.

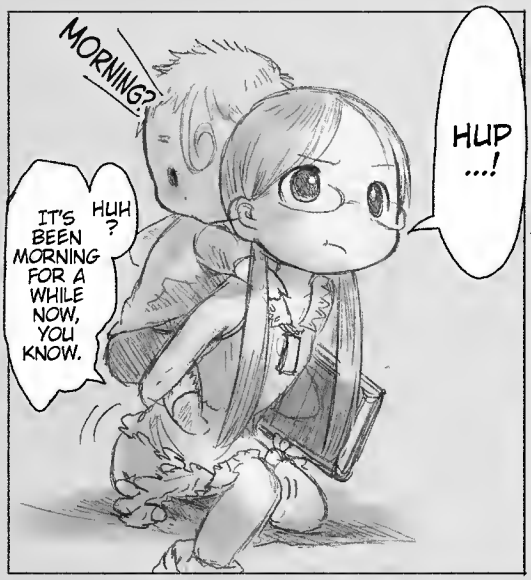
CHA-RING...
RIKO...! SO THIS'S WHERE YOU WERE ...!

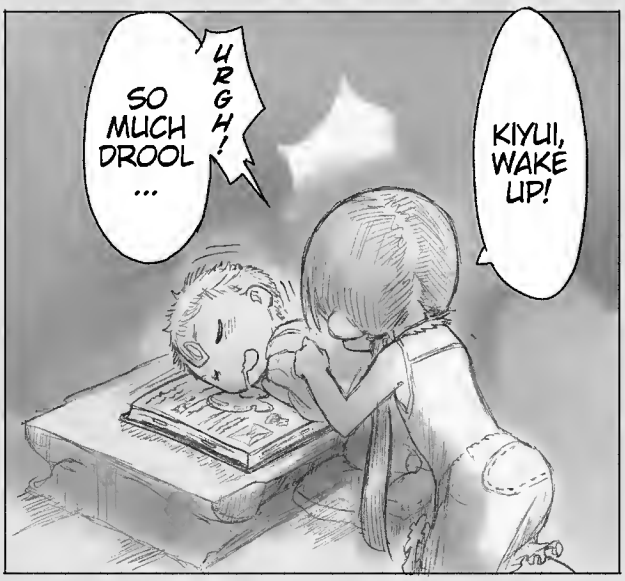
WE'RE HEADING BACK NOW, RIKO.
WHAAT ...?
BUT I WANNA WATCH THE BIRDS SOME MORE ...!

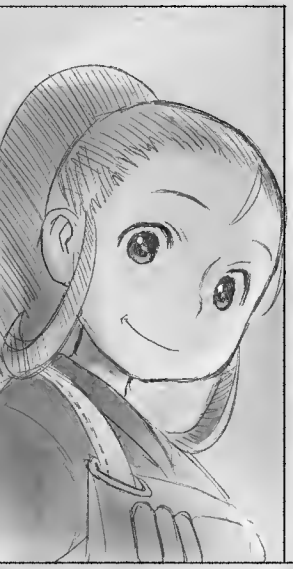

AH!
HELLO THERE, LAFFI!
HELLO, SHIGGY.


WAIT JUST A SEC, 'KAY?!
LAFFI...
DO YOU HAVE THE STUFF ON THIS LIST?
SURE DO HOW MUCH WOULD YOU LIKE?

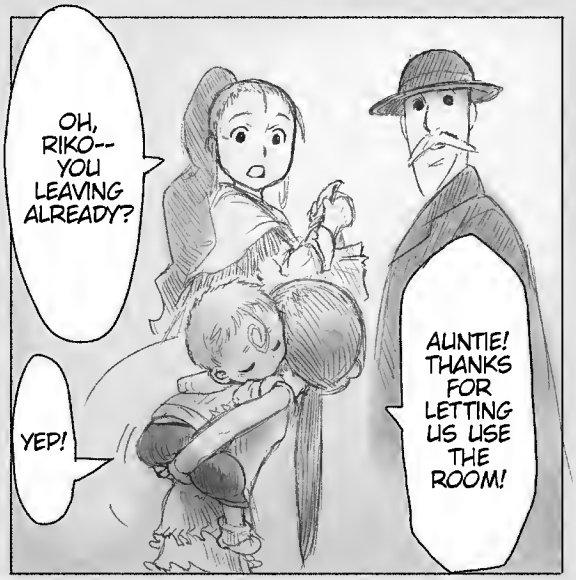
THE RED WHISTLES AND BLUE WHISTLES ARE GOING CAVE RAIDING TOMORROW!
SERIOUSLY ?!
THERE MIGHT BE A BRIEFING ABOUT IT, SO LET'S HURRY!


HUP ...!
MORNING?
HUH?
IT'S BEEN MORNING FOR A WHILE NOW, YOU KNOW.


KIYUI, WAKE UP!
URGH!
SO MUCH DROOL ...



UM, AUNTIE?
CAN WE COME BACK NEXT TIME WE'RE OUT MAKING DELIV-ERIES?

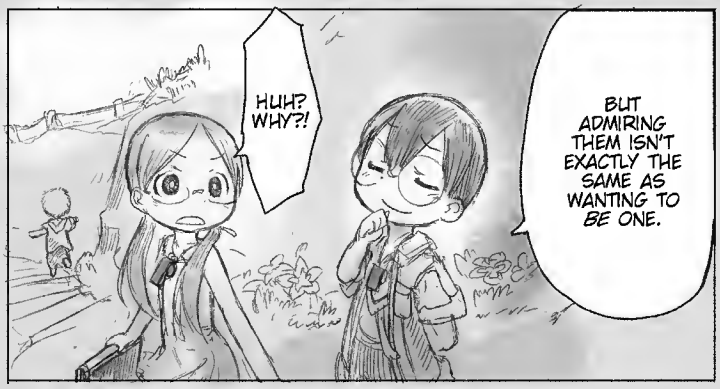

OH, RIKO-- YOU LEAVING ALREADY?
YEP!
AUNTIE! THANKS FOR LETTING US USE THE ROOM!

THE ROOM MIGHT GET LONELY IF IT'S LEFT UNUSED!
IT'LL BE ANOTHER TWO WHOLE MONTHS BEFORE HABO COMES HOME, AFTER ALL.
YOU'RE WEL-COME ANY-TIME.

I REALLY ADMIRE THEM. OUR COUNTRY CELEBRATES THEM AS HEROES, AFTER ALL.
OOH.
A WHITE WHISTLE, HUH?
SHE SAID HABO IS ASPIRING TO BE A WHITE WHISTLE.
AND THEN ...
AND THEN ...

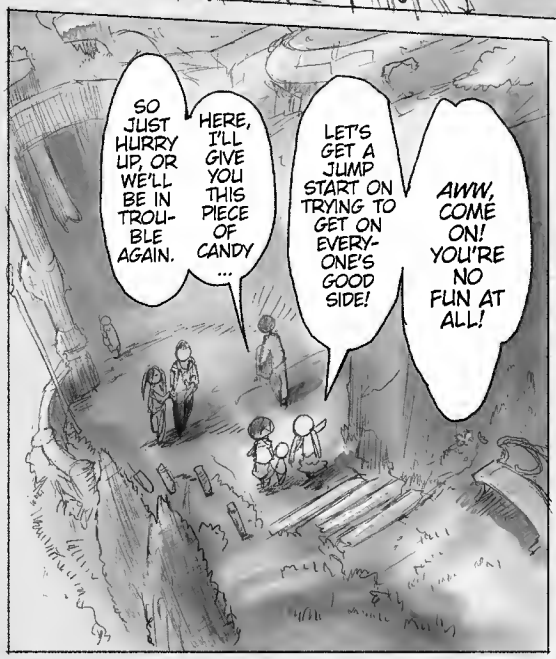
OKAY
ONE MORE JUMP!

THEY'RE THE BEST OF THE BEST AMONG US CAVE RAIDERS!
THEY DON'T HAVE ANY DEPTH LIMIT, YOU KNOW!

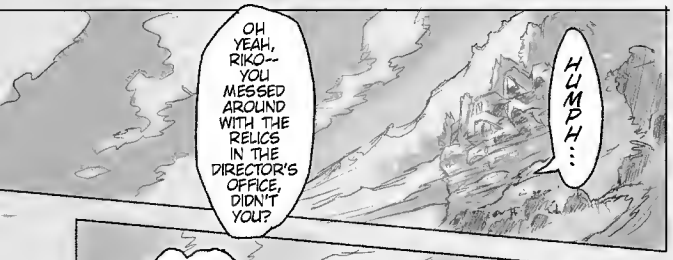

HUH? WHY?!
BUT ADMIRING THEM ISN'T EXACTLY THE SAME AS WANTING TO BE ONE.

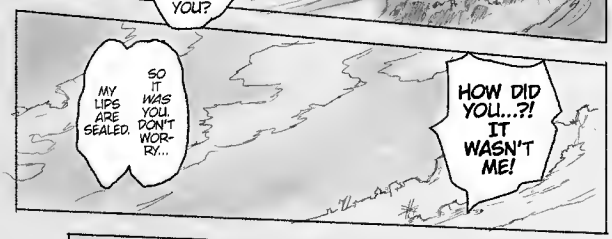
THAT'S RIGHT!
WHEN I'M MADE A WHITE WHISTLE...
I'M GONNA DO MY VERY BEST TO BECOME LEGENDARY!

I DON'T LIKE STUFF THAT'S TOO DEMANDING...
BUT, RIKO, YOU WANT TO BE A WHITE WHISTLE, DON'T YOU?


AWW, COME ON! YOU'RE NO FUN AT ALL!
LET'S GET A JUMP START ON TRYING TO GET ON EVERYONE'S GOOD SIDE!
HERE, I'LL GIVE YOU THIS PIECE OF CANDY...
SO JUST HURRY UP, OR WE'LL BE IN TROUBLE AGAIN.

TOMORROW'S CAVE RAID WILL TAKE US DEEPER THAN LAST TIME, RIGHT? IF WE KEEP ON GOING DEEPER AND DEEPER...
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME?!
ONLY A MATTER OF TIME...?

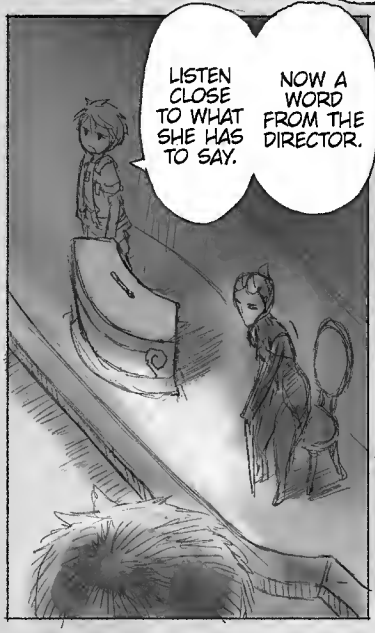

HUMPH...
OH YEAH, RIKO--YOU MESSED AROUND WITH THE RELICS IN THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE, DIDN'T YOU?


HOW DID YOU...?! IT WASN'T ME!
SO IT WAS YOU. DON'T WORRY...
MY LIPS ARE SEALED.

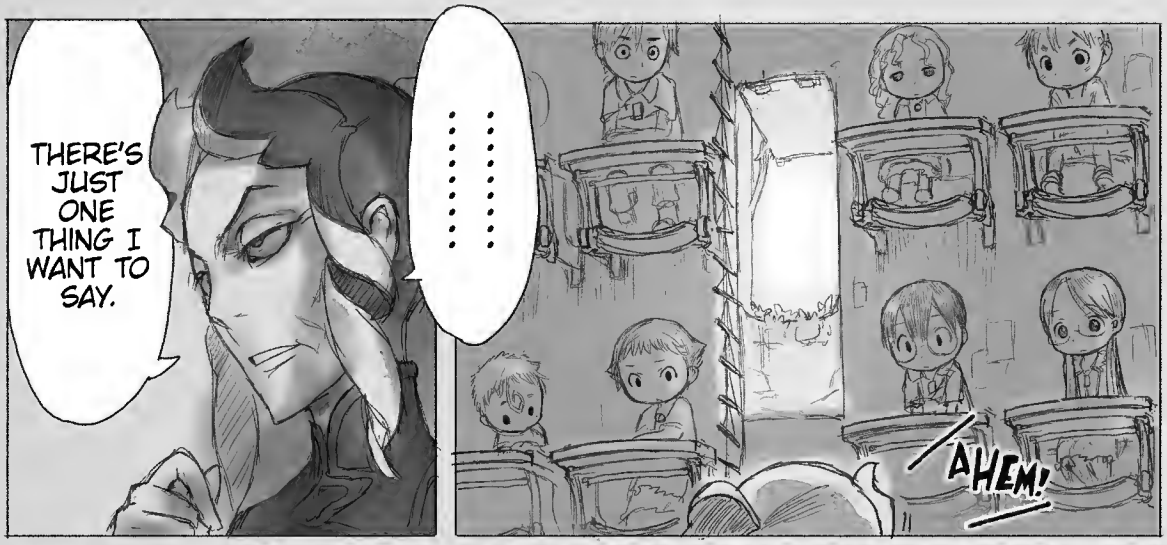
ALL THAT STUFF YOU GUYS MADE FUN OF--YOU KNOW, MY "STAR COMPASS," "SCALED UMBRELLA," AND "SUN SPHERE"...
I BET THEY'LL BE WORTH A TON WHEN I'M A WHITE WHISTLE.
YEAH, YEAH.
SHE ADDED SOME STUFF I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF...

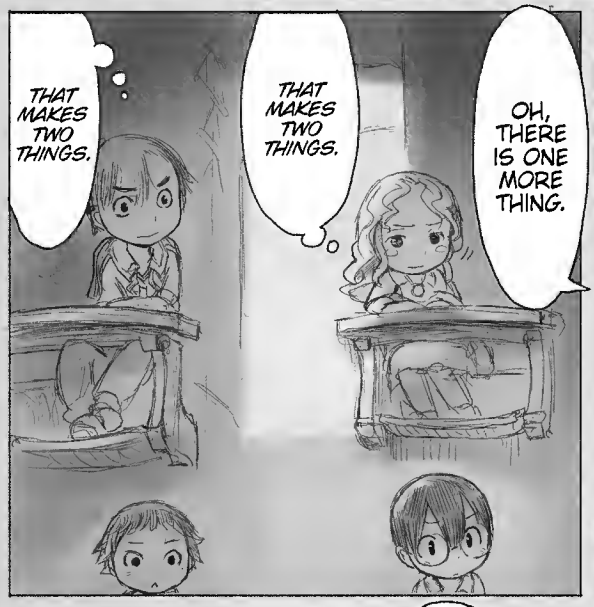
THOUGH YOU WON'T FEEL THEM MUCH AFTER YOU ACCLIMATE TO THEM.
OF MILD DIZZINESS AND NAUSEA WILL BE EXTREMELY NOTICEABLE ...
ON YOUR WAY BACK HOME, THE "STRAINS" ...
YOU'LL STILL BE WITHIN THE "DEPTHS OF THE FIRST LAYER."
THE RED WHISTLES WILL DESCEND UP TO AROUND 450 METERS. IN OTHER WORDS...

FIDGET
FIDGET
YOU'RE UNLIKELY TO FACE MUCH DANGER FROM PRIMEVAL CREATURES OR FALLING.
SO I'VE DIVIDED THE AREA UP AND ASSIGNED EVERYONE A SPOT.
ALL RIGHT... STARTING THIS TIME, YOU'LL BE CAVE RAIDING SOLO...

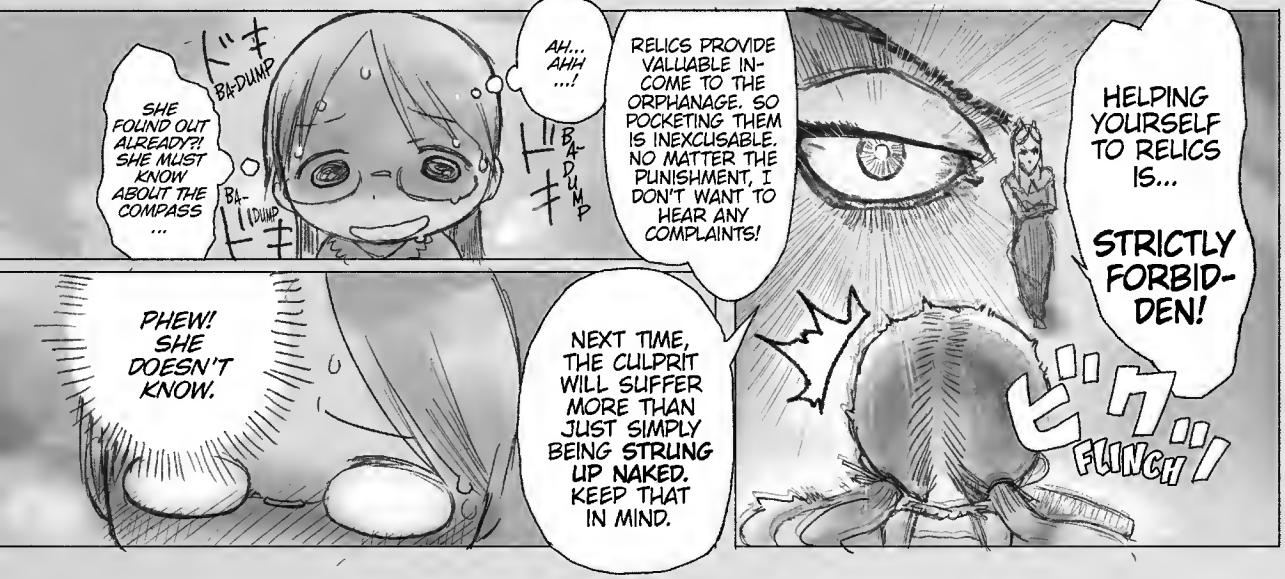

LISTEN CLOSE TO WHAT SHE HAS TO SAY.
NOW A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR.

BUT JUST IN CASE, DON'T FORGET TO PACK YOUR WHISTLES AND SMOKE SCREENS.
THAT'S ALL. ANY QUES-TIONS?


THERE'S JUST ONE THING I WANT TO SAY.
.....
AHEM!


THAT MAKES TWO THINGS.
THAT MAKES TWO THINGS.
OH, THERE IS ONE MORE THING.

STRIVE TO EARN AS MUCH AS YOU CAN ...
SO AS NOT TO SHAME YOUR PARENTS, WHO FELL SO NOBLY.
THOSE WITH WHISTLES SHOULDN'T THINK THEY'RE GOING OUT THERE SIMPLY TO LEARN. BE MINDFUL THAT YOU ARE STUDENTS OF THE GUILD'S ORPHANAGE.


SHE FOUND OUT ALREADY?! SHE MUST KNOW ABOUT THE COMPASS ...
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
AH... AHH ...!
BA-DUMP
RELICS PROVIDE VALUABLE INCOME TO THE ORPHANAGE. SO POCKETING THEM IS INEXCUSABLE. NO MATTER THE PUNISHMENT, I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY COMPLAINTS!
HELPING YOURSELF TO RELICS IS...
STRICTLY FORBIDDEN!
FLINCH!
PHEW! SHE DOESN'T KNOW.
NEXT TIME, THE CULPRIT WILL SUFFER MORE THAN JUST SIMPLY BEING STRUNG UP NAKED. KEEP THAT IN MIND.

BUT I'M SAFE FOR NOW ...!

SHE'S MADE A MAIDEN LIKE ME RELIVE THAT TRAUMA ...

GAH~~~!

I- I WAS JUST WORRIED BECAUSE YOU WERE CRYING ...

NOT GOOD ...

THAT'S SO MEAN, NAT! YOU REALLY DID LOOK, DIDN'T YOU?!

I JUST HEARD YOU CRYING! BESIDES, I'M NOT INTERESTED IN SOMEONE WITHOUT ANY HAIR DOWN THERE.

I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING !!

DID YOU LOOK ?!! YOU SAW, DIDN'T YOU ?!!!

DON'T TALK ABOUT THAT...! BUT... HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS CRYING ?!

SERIOUSLY, YOU BETTER BE CAREFUL.

THAT WAS CLOSE! I'M SO EMBARRASSED!

YOU CRIED ALL DAY WHEN YOU GOT STRUNG UP NAKED... NO ONE'S GONNA MARRY YOU AT THIS RATE.

ばん BWAM

ばん BWAM

F-FORGET ABOUT IT!!

THEN WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO?

OF COURSE I'D BE MAD!

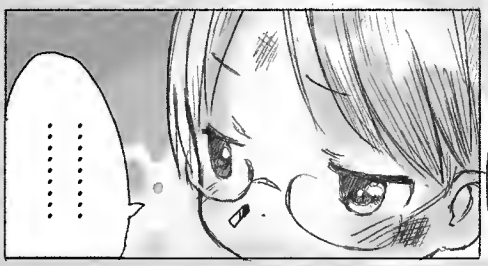
YOU WOULD'VE BEEN MAD IF I WENT IN THE ROOM, RIKO!

IF YOU WERE SO WORRIED, WHY DIDN'T YOU RESCUE ME?!!

OUCH!

EEEEK!!

150 METERS ...
THAT'S THE SAME AS LAST TIME.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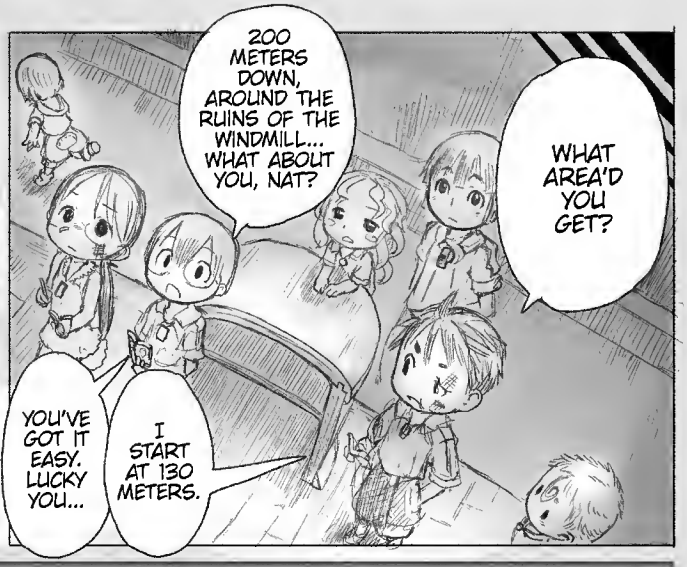
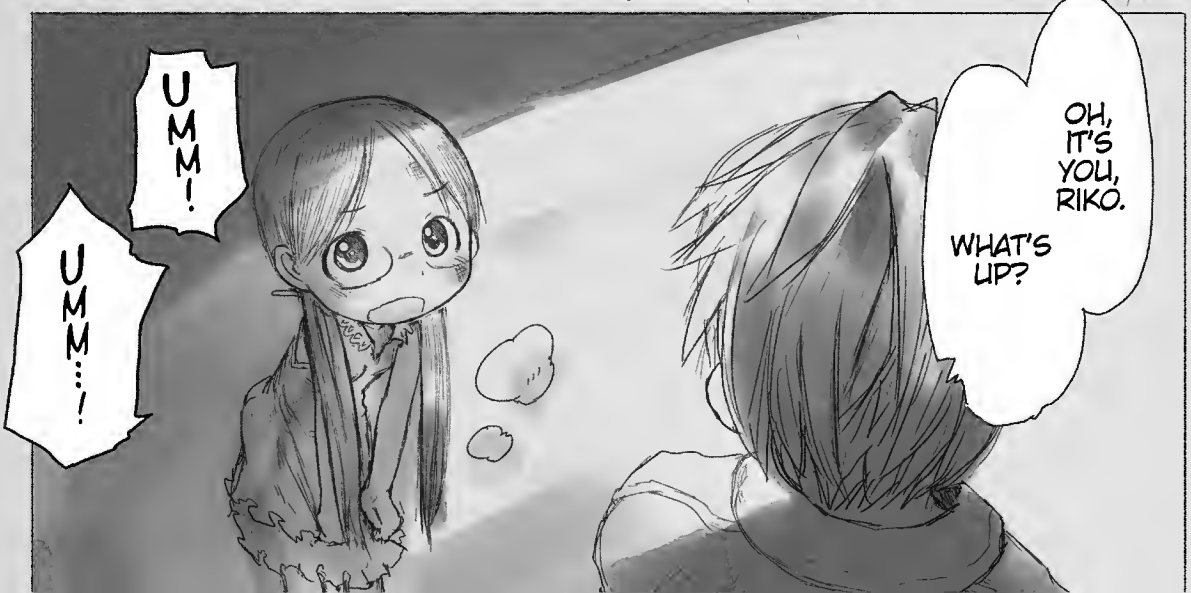

WHAT AREA'D YOU GET?
200 METERS DOWN, AROUND THE RUINS OF THE WINDMILL... WHAT ABOUT YOU, NAT?
I START AT 130 METERS.
YOU'VE GOT IT EASY. LUCKY YOU...

LEADER!

ALL THE BELLS ARE TO HEAD OVER THERE. AND MAKE SURE YOU BRUSH YOUR TEETH.
OH, GOOD NIGHT.
GOOD NIGHT!

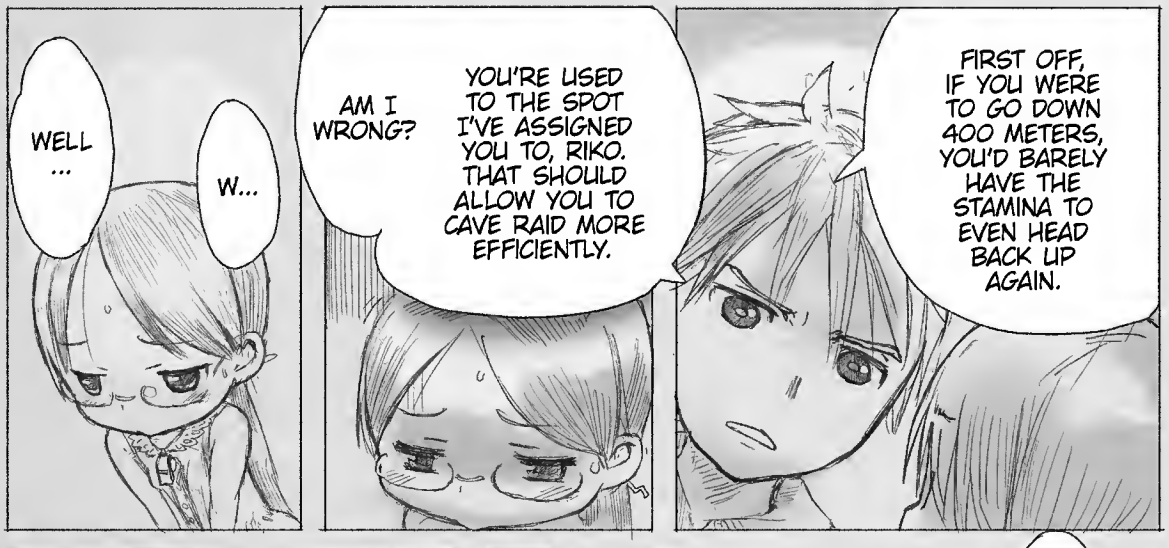

OH, IT'S YOU, RIKO.
WHAT'S UP?
UMM!
UMM....!

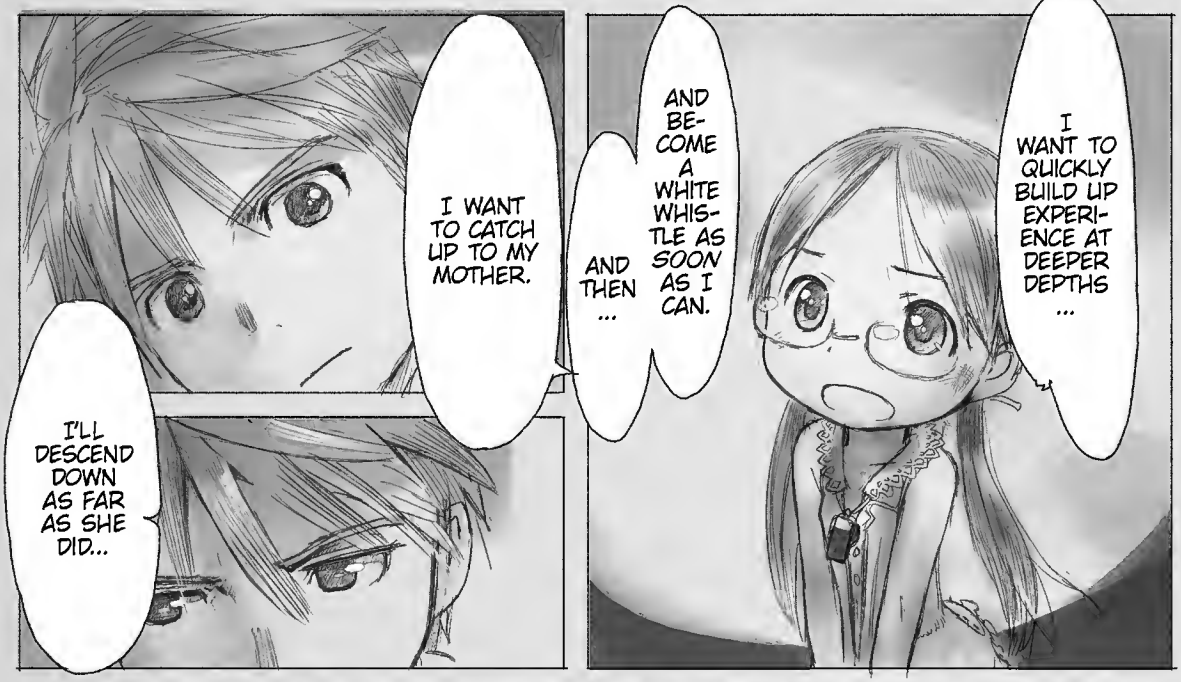
PLEASE!

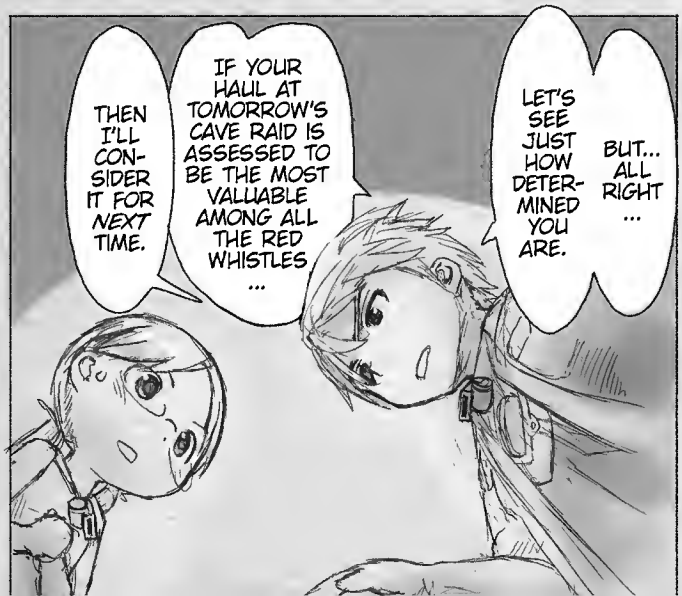
ASSIGN ME TO SOME-PLACE DEEPER!

PLEASE!

WHAP

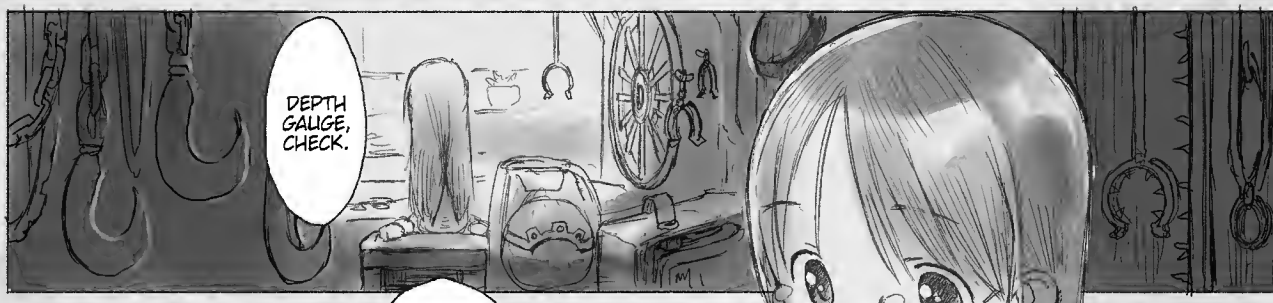

WELL ...
W...
AM I WRONG?
YOU'RE USED TO THE SPOT I'VE ASSIGNED YOU TO, RIKO. THAT SHOULD ALLOW YOU TO CAVE RAID MORE EFFICIENTLY.
FIRST OFF, IF YOU WERE TO GO DOWN 400 METERS, YOU'D BARELY HAVE THE STAMINA TO EVEN HEAD BACK UP AGAIN.

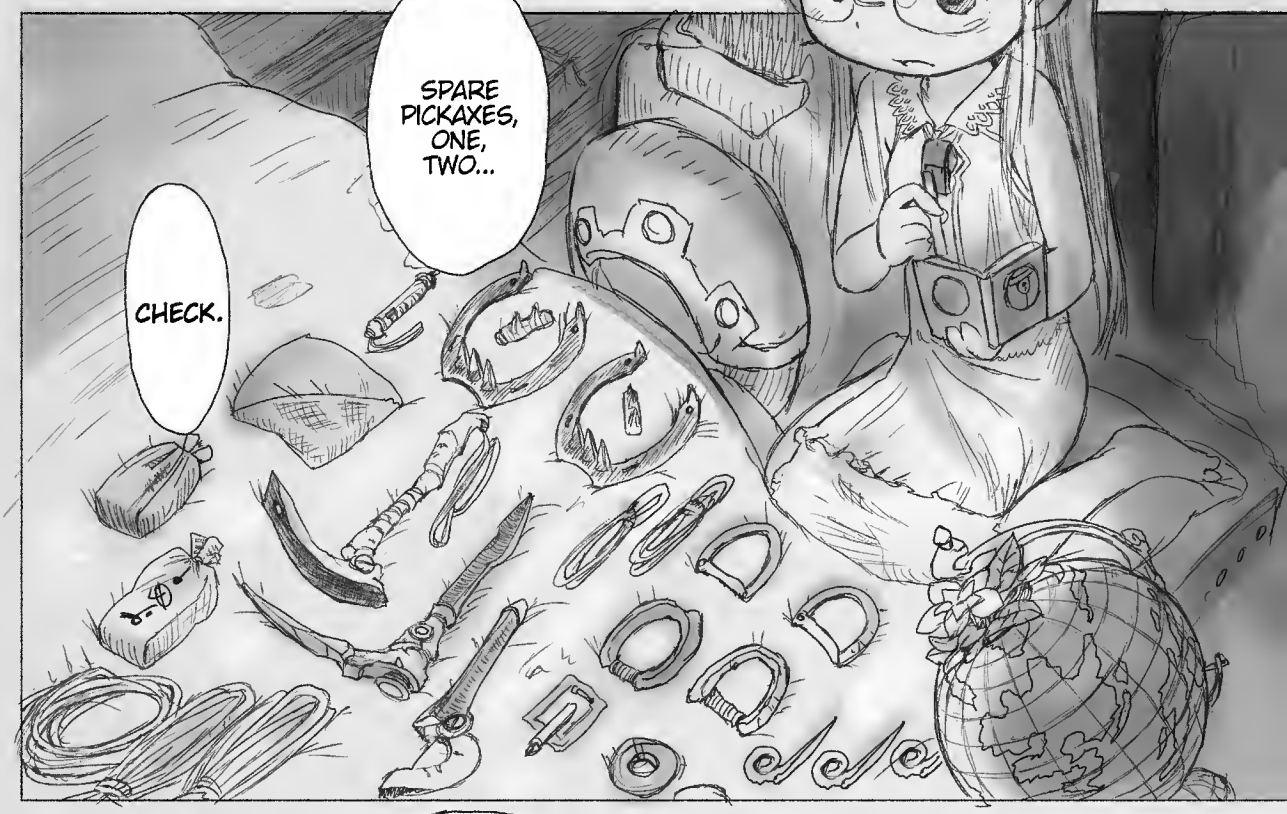

I'LL DESCEND DOWN AS FAR AS SHE DID...
I WANT TO CATCH UP TO MY MOTHER.
AND THEN ...
AND BE-COME A WHITE WHIS-TLE AS SOON AS I CAN.
I WANT TO QUICKLY BUILD UP EXPERI-ENCE AT DEEPER DEPTHS ...

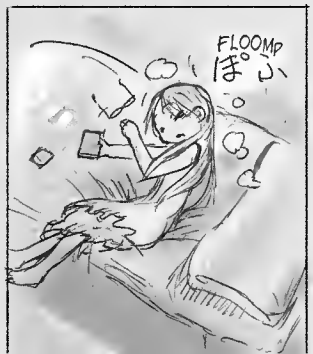

THEN I'LL CON-SIDER IT FOR NEXT TIME.
IF YOUR HAUL AT TOMORROW'S CAVE RAID IS ASSESSED TO BE THE MOST VALUABLE AMONG ALL THE RED WHISTLES ...
LET'S SEE JUST HOW DETER-MINED YOU ARE.
BUT... ALL RIGHT ...

NOT THIS TIME.
AND HEN--

GLOW-STONE, CHECK.
(Former Torture Chamber)
(Riko)


DEPTH GAUGE, CHECK.

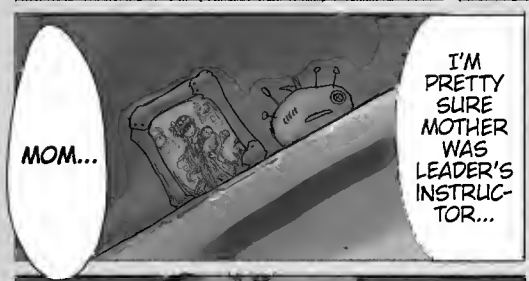

SPARE PICKAXES, ONE, TWO...
CHECK.


FLOOMP
ぽふ

JUST NEED A RICE BALL AND I SHOULD BE GOOD.
OKAY!

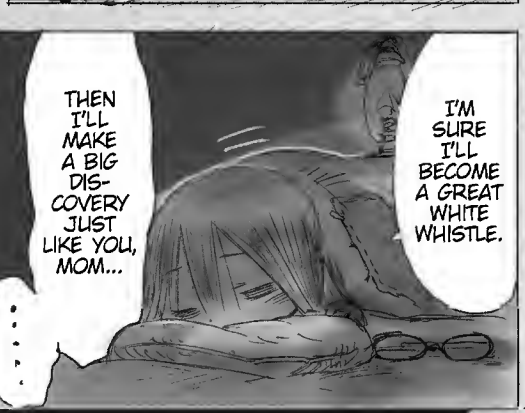
.....
THE CONDITIONS LEADER SET FOR ME SURE ARE TOUGH ...

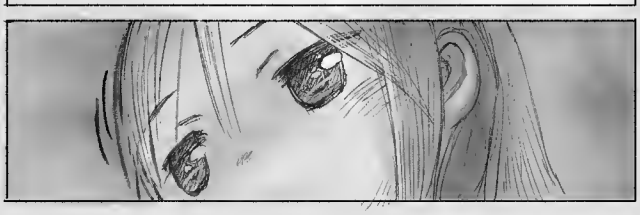
I'M GONNA GO ALL OUT TOMORROW.
I'LL GET SO MUCH STUFF, HE'LL BE AT A LOSS FOR WORDS.
FOR THE SAKE OF THE CAVE RAID AFTER THIS ONE ...

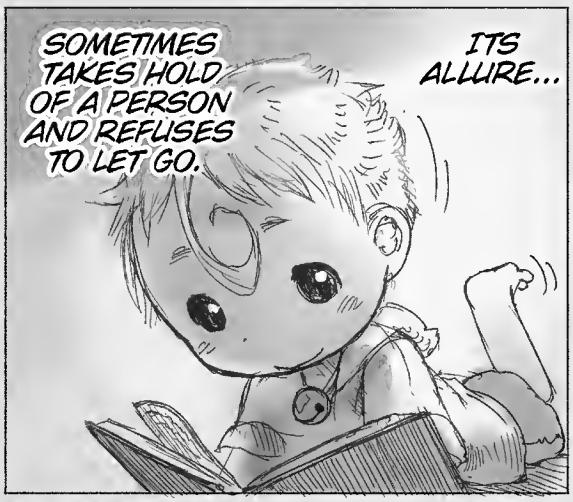

MOM...
I'M PRETTY SURE MOTHER WAS LEADER'S INSTRUCTOR...

BUT AT LEAST MY PLAN TO MAKE HIM LISTEN BY BRINGING UP MY MOTHER ...
WAS SOMEWHAT SUCCESSFUL.
BUT IT FEELS LIKE HE GOT EXTRA STRICT AFTER THAT.

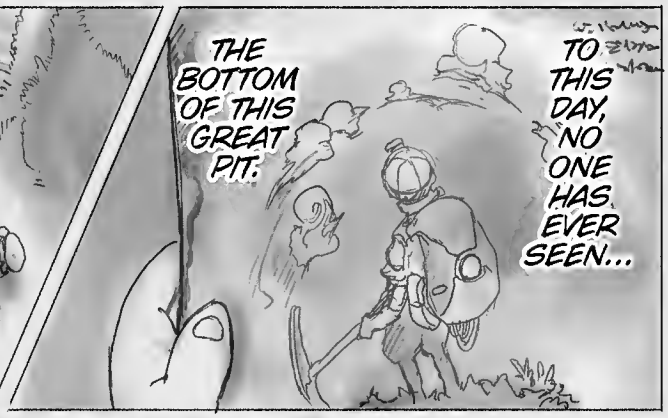
I'VE GOT MYSELF A CHANCE NOW.
MOM, WITH YOU DOWN IN THE NETHERWORLD, I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER YOUR FACE OR VOICE... BUT THANK YOU.


THEN I'LL MAKE A BIG DISCOVERY JUST LIKE YOU, MOM...
.....
I'M SURE I'LL BECOME A GREAT WHITE WHISTLE.

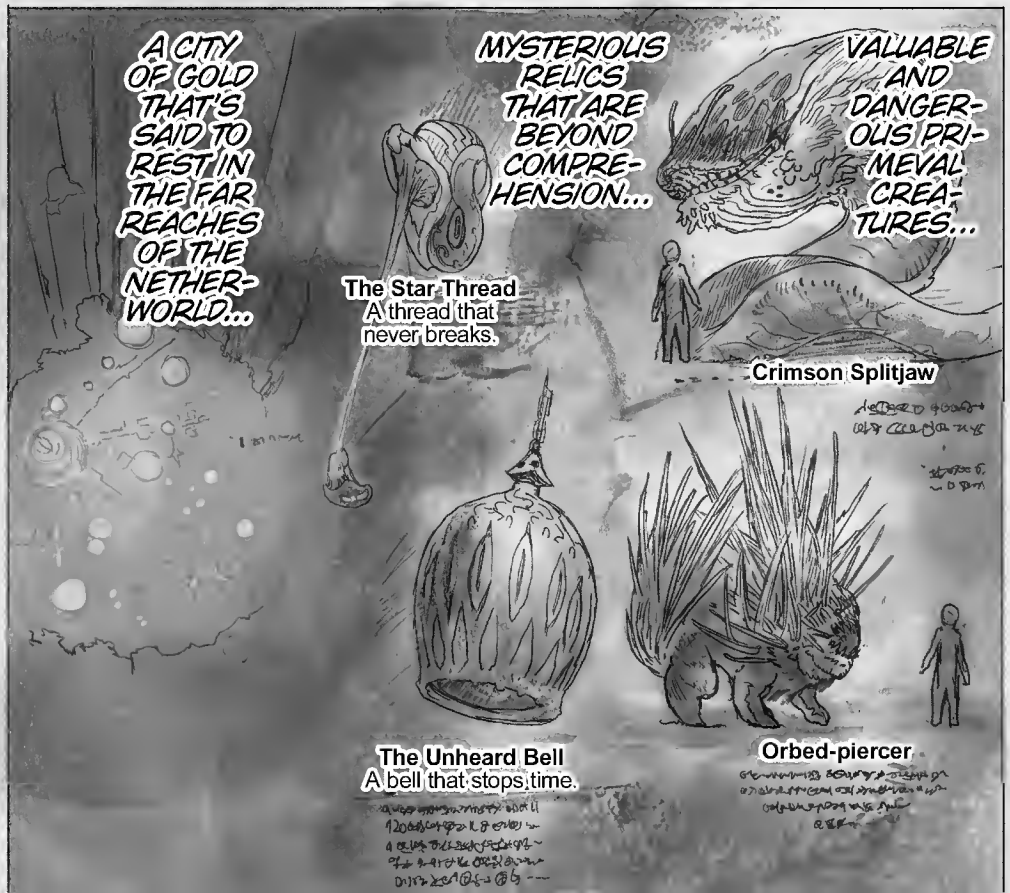



SOMETIMES TAKES HOLD OF A PERSON AND REFUSES TO LET GO.
ITS ALLURE...

THE GREAT PIT...
HAS A CAPTIVATING POWER TO IT.


THE BOTTOM OF THIS GREAT PIT.
TO THIS DAY, NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN...

FOR THE PAST 1,900 YEARS, ALL OF THESE THINGS AND MORE HAVE BEEN LURING PEOPLE TO VENTURE INTO ITS DEPTHS.


A CITY OF GOLD THAT'S SAID TO REST IN THE FAR REACHES OF THE NETHER-WORLD...
MYSTERIOUS RELICS THAT ARE BEYOND COMPRE-HENSION...
VALUABLE AND DANGER-OUS PRI-MEVAL CREA-TURES...
The Star Thread
A thread that never breaks.
Crimson Splitjaw
The Unheard Bell
A bell that stops time.
Orbed-piercer

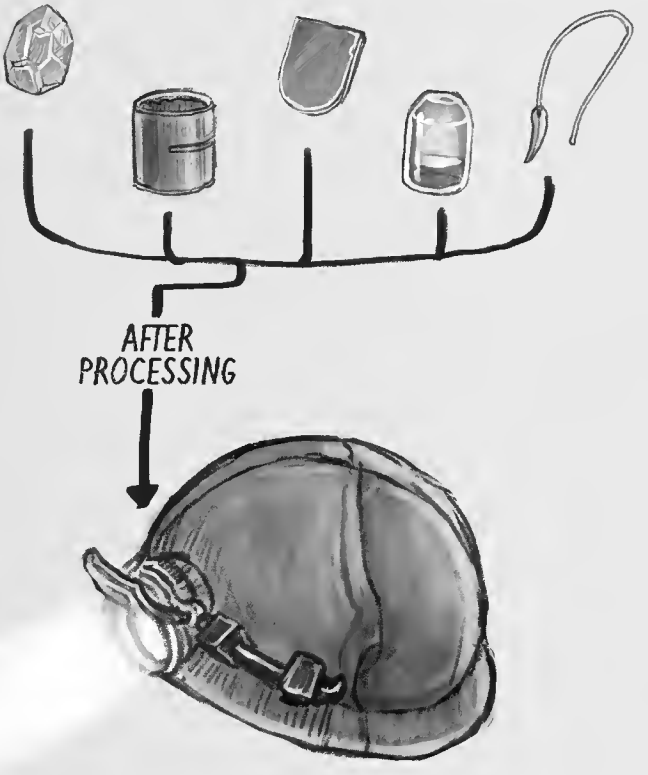
FWP
!!!
WITH A SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE FOR THE UNKNOWN...
AND COUNTLESS LEGENDS LURING THEM ON...
THE GREAT PIT HAS SWALLOWED UP ENOUGH LIVES TO BE WORTHY OF ITS NAME...

IN A WORLD WHERE NEARLY EVERYTHING HAS BEEN UNCOVERED AND EXPLORED...
THE "ABYSS."
IT IS THE SOLE REMAINING UNCONQUERED CHASM.
FROOOOOOOAR

GLOWSTONE

A STONE FOUND IN THE ABYSS.
AFTER BEING POLISHED, IT SHINES BRIGHTLY WHEN
VIBRATIONS OF A CERTAIN FREQUENCY ARE APPLIED
TO IT. CAN BE USED AS AN ARTIFICIAL LIGHT.

A SIMPLE LIST OF THE MECHANISM'S COMPONENTS WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS:
AN IRON CAN AND PLATE, A SEALED GLASS RECEPTACLE,
A PROCESSED TALON CRYSTAL, A WIRE, AND WATER.



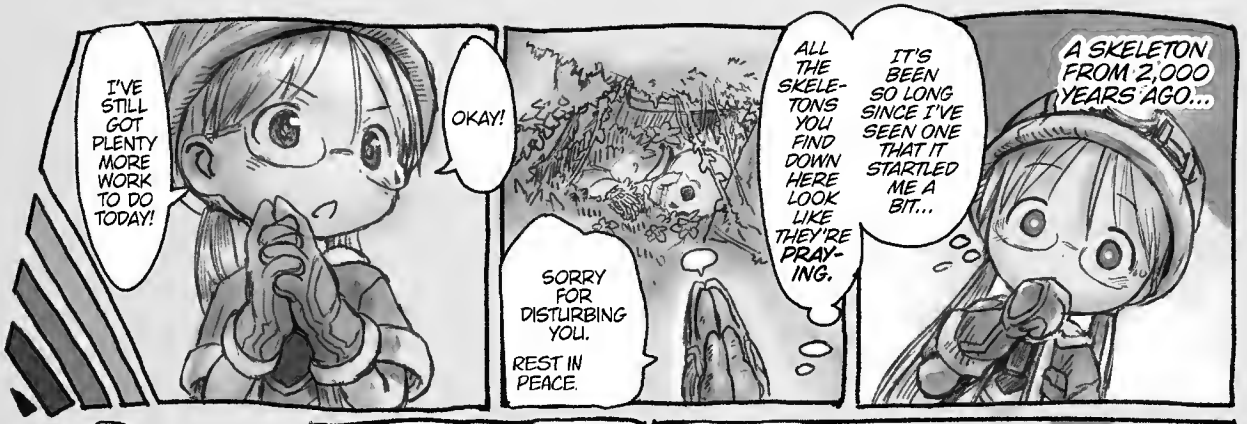
THE LIGHT DOESN'T EMIT HEAT, SO IT'S QUITE STABLE.
HOWEVER, IT EXPLODES FAIRLY EASILY WHEN PRESSURE IS APPLIED TO IT,
SO HANDLE IT WITH CARE.

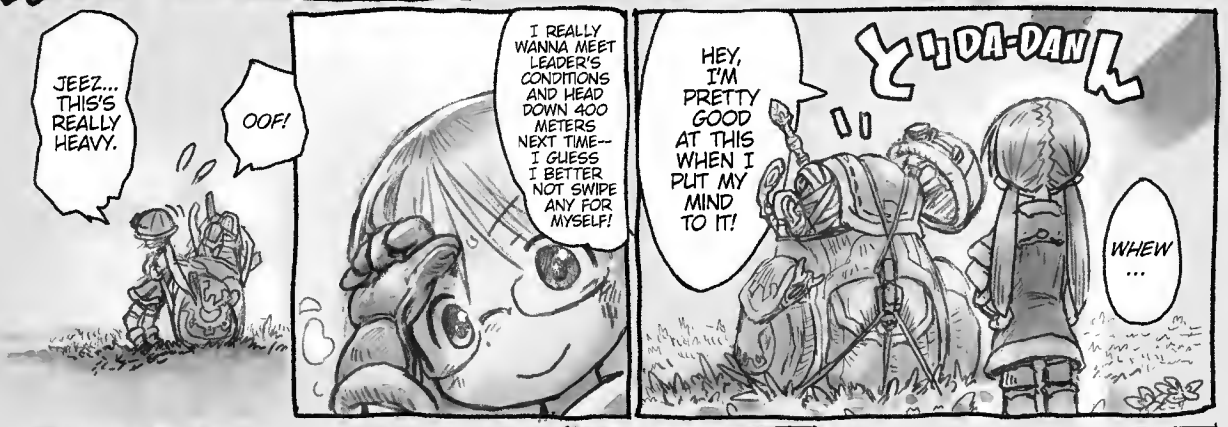
Hello, Abyss 02 The Abode of Trees and Fossils

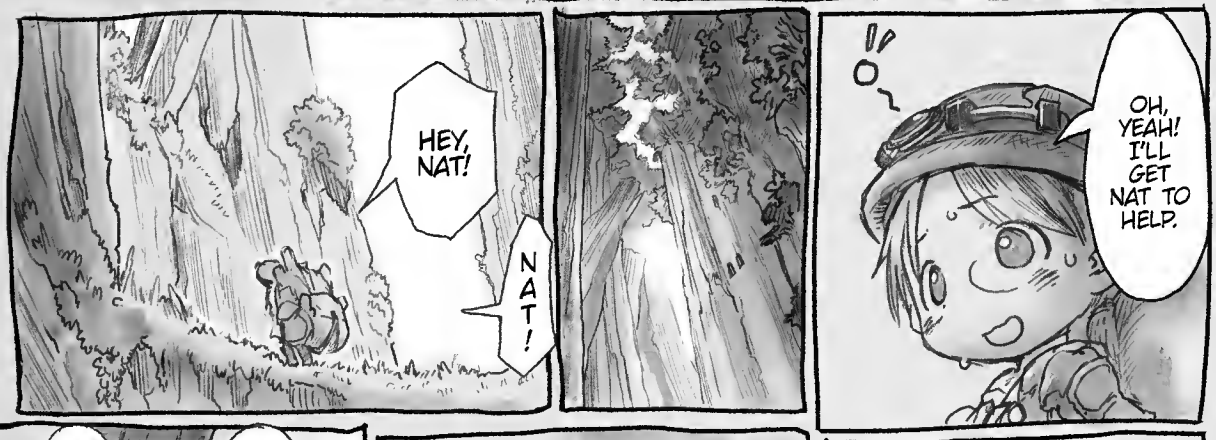
SHUT UP. I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR THE AREA JUST ABOVE YOURS.
WHY ARE YOU FOL-LOWING ME?!
COME ON, NAT!
.....
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
FINE THEN-- I'LL MAKE YOU HELP CARRY THE RELICS I COLLECT AS PUNISHMENT FOR PEEPING.
WHEEEEER
WHOA.
THAT'S THE BIG GONDOLA FOR THE GROUP GOING DOWN 600 METERS.
CLAK
AHH!

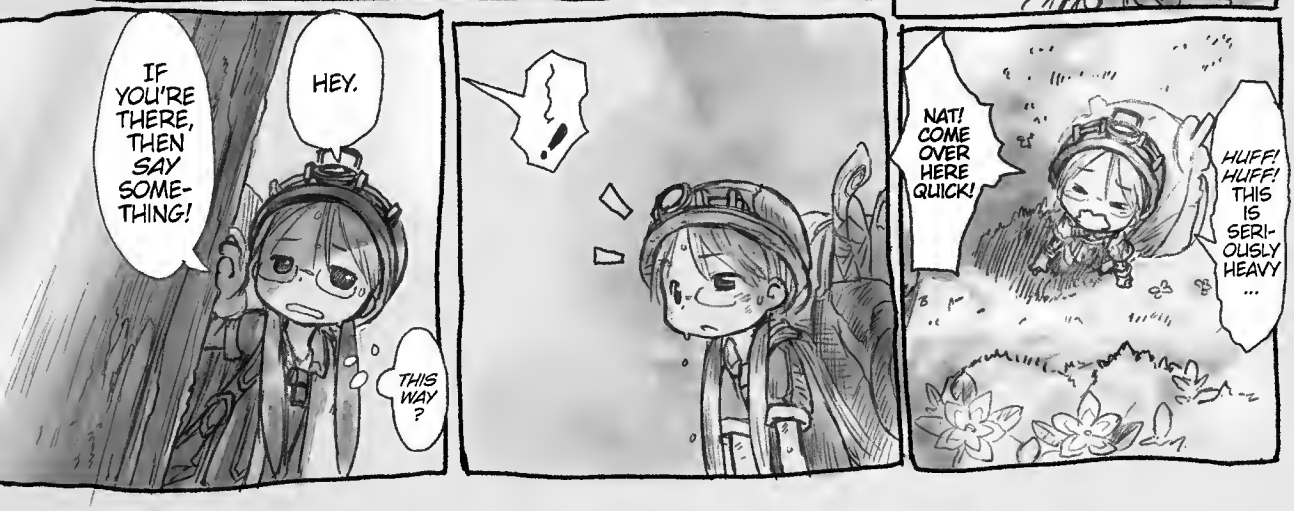
Start at the wet rocks, go about halfway around.
Welcome to the Rock Ark!
Cascading Gondola: 50m~580m
I WONDER IF THEY'RE HEADED FOR THE ROCK ARK...
HEY.
LUCKY THEM ...
THE FORCE FIELD IS PRETTY THICK TODAY. I'M GUESSING VISIBILITY'S ONLY 150 METERS OR SO.
IT'S ALREADY OUT OF SIGHT!
I'M NOT THAT NOISY ALL THE TIME!
OR IS IT KINDA QUIET TODAY?
IS IT JUST MY IMAGINATION ...
WHA ...?!
Welcome to the Rock Ark!
WHAT ...?
HEY.
YOU'RE RIGHT. I WONDER WHERE THEY WENT...
I CAN'T HEAR THEM SINGING, ANYWAY.
HMM... THERE AREN'T ANY HAMMERBEAKS AROUND, EVEN THOUGH IT'S MORNING. MAYBE THAT'S WHY?
Hammer-beaks
NOT YOU, RIKO. I MEAN THIS WHOLE AREA HERE.
YOU SURE ARE ANNOYING ...
WHY'RE YOU GOING ON AHEAD OF ME ?!
HEY, WAIT!
WELL, WHATEVER THE REASON, IT SHOULD MAKE IT EASIER TO WORK. THOSE GUYS WILL TAKE ANYTHING SHINY BACK TO THEIR NESTS, YOU KNOW.

ALL RIGHT!!
TIME TO SECURE THE MOST VALUABLE HAUL!
I'M GONNA GO ALL OUT TODAY!!
モサッ
SMOOSH
I'LL TAKE THAT!
AH!
NO ONE'S DUG BACK HERE YET!
THE ABODE OF TREES AND FOSSILS
Approximate Depth: 100m~220m
WHOAA!
CRUMBLE
AND THIS!
PWU UP
モリッ
RS-TL
YANK
ゴギギッ
EEK!
THIS'S IT!


I'VE STILL GOT PLENTY MORE WORK TO DO TODAY!
OKAY!
SORRY FOR DISTURBING YOU.
REST IN PEACE.
ALL THE SKELETONS YOU FIND DOWN HERE LOOK LIKE THEY'RE PRAYING.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE SEEN ONE THAT IT STARTLED ME A BIT...
A SKELETON FROM 2,000 YEARS AGO...


JEEZ... THIS'S REALLY HEAVY.
OOF!
I REALLY WANNA MEET LEADER'S CONDITIONS AND HEAD DOWN 400 METERS NEXT TIME-- I GUESS I BETTER NOT SWIPE ANY FOR MYSELF!
HEY, I'M PRETTY GOOD AT THIS WHEN I PUT MY MIND TO IT!
DA-DAN
WHEW ...


HEY, NAT!
NAT!
OH, YEAH! I'LL GET NAT TO HELP.

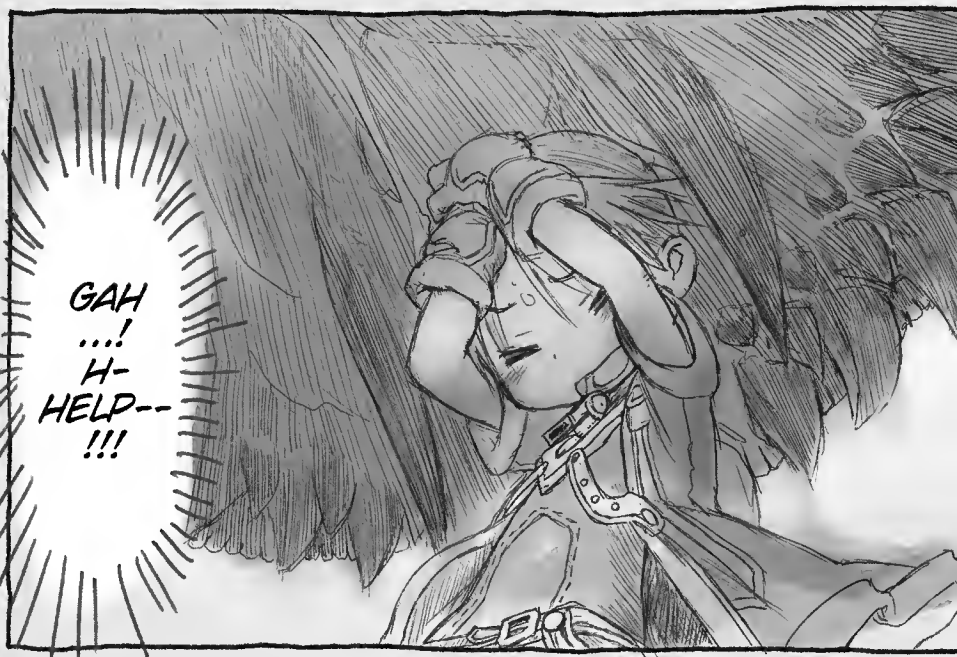

IF YOU'RE THERE, THEN SAY SOMETHING!
HEY.
THIS WAY?
!
NAT! COME OVER HERE QUICK!
HUFF! HUFF! THIS IS SERIOUSLY HEAVY ...

CRUNCH
NAT... OH NO!
IT'S GOING TO EAT HIM ...!
IS THAT BLOOD ...?!
WHAT'S IT DOING UP THIS FAR IN THE ABYSS ?!
A CRIM-SON SPLIT-JAW!

PIIZ
AH.
OH CRA--
THUUP

ZRUNK
SHWUN
AAH
SHRUF
WAAH!
GAAHH!

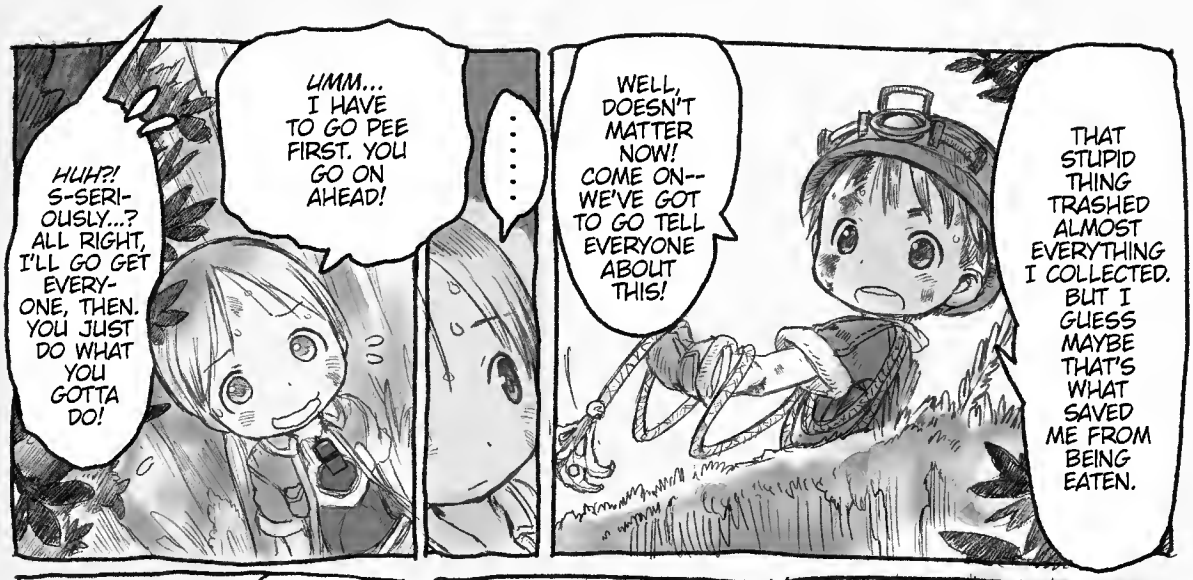
UH...
NNGH...
ばたっ
ぶらっ
ぶんっ
BWOON
ROLL
ころん
M-MY ARM IS BRO--
NO, WAIT... I CAN STILL MOVE IT JUST FINE.
!
NAT ...!
ぬ
NU-
ふぁ
RAA
EEK!


GAH ....! H- HELP-- !!!

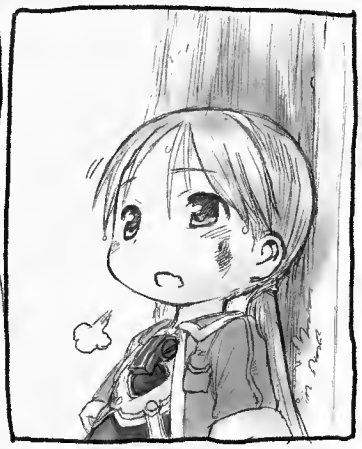
AAAAHH!

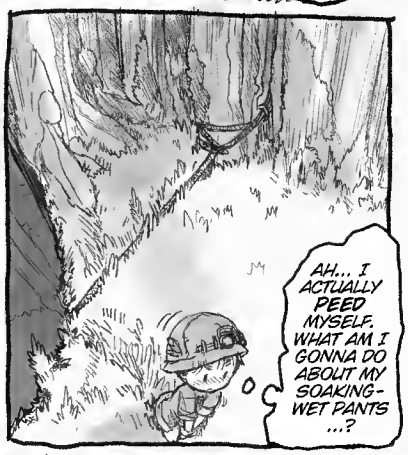
JAAA
?!
……?
DO-KAAN
ドカッ
AAH! AAAAAAHH!!
FL-ばさっ
FLAP
ズ
ZU-
ILSLUM

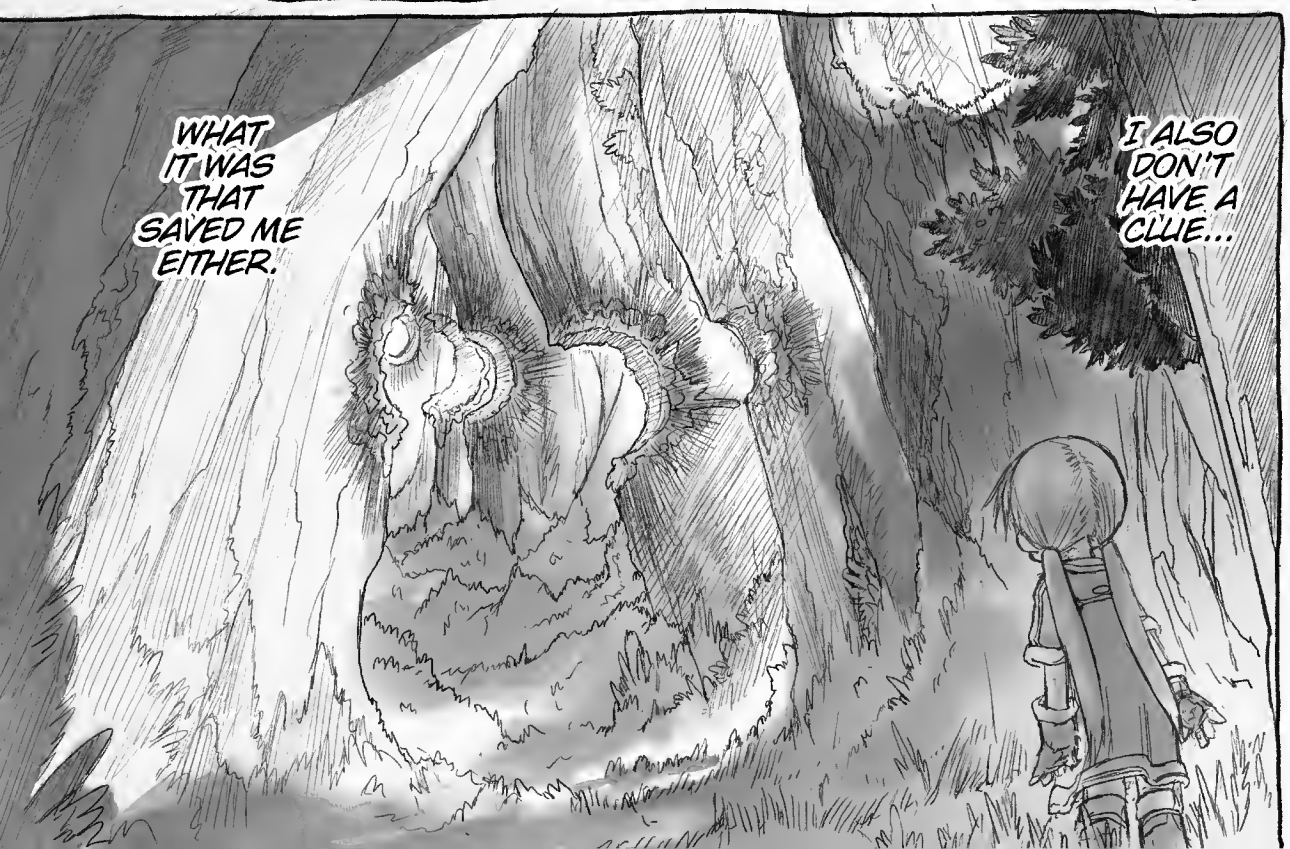
HEY!
.....
RIKO! WHERE ARE YOU?!
?!
AH! THERE YOU ARE!
ARE YOU OKAY, RIKO ?!
DID THAT BIG SNAKE THING COME OVER THIS WAY?
PHEW! ほっ
NAT ...!
GOOD... I'M GLAD HE'S OKAY.
SO, WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED TO YOU?! WERE YOU ATTACKED?!
UH-HUH.
BUT THAT SNAKE FLED DOWN THE CLIFF... I THINK WE'RE SAFE NOW.
WHOA!

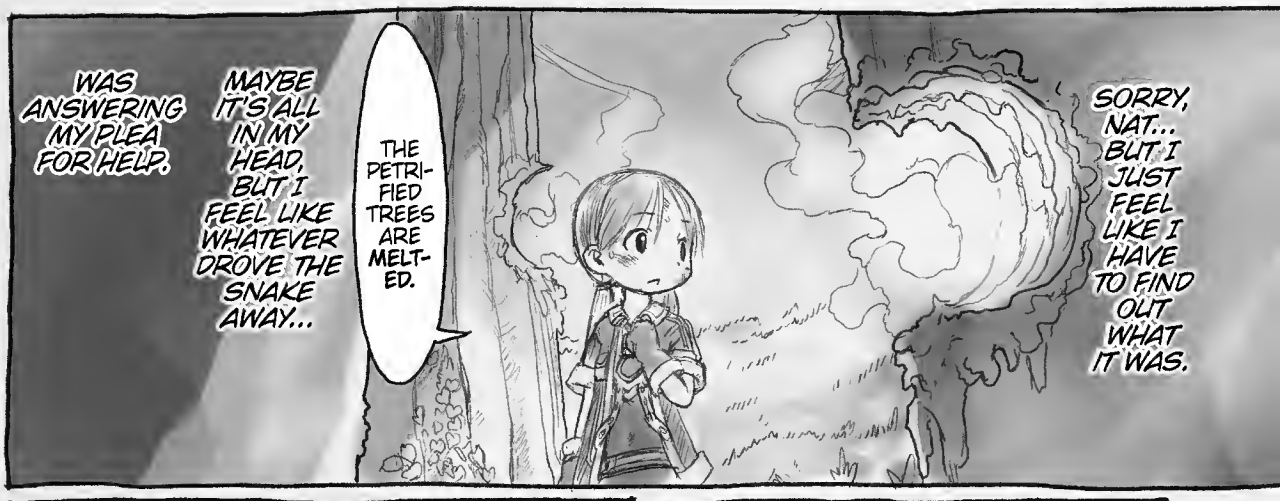

HUH?! S-SERIOUSLY...? ALL RIGHT, I'LL GO GET EVERYONE, THEN. YOU JUST DO WHAT YOU GOTTA DO!
UMM... I HAVE TO GO PEE FIRST. YOU GO ON AHEAD!
.....
WELL, DOESN'T MATTER NOW! COME ON-- WE'VE GOT TO GO TELL EVERYONE ABOUT THIS!
THAT STUPID THING TRASHED ALMOST EVERYTHING I COLLECTED. BUT I GUESS MAYBE THAT'S WHAT SAVED ME FROM BEING EATEN.

WELL, WHATEVER. I ALSO ...
SO IT SEEMS NAT HAS ABSOLUTELY NO RECOLLECTION THAT I SAVED HIM...

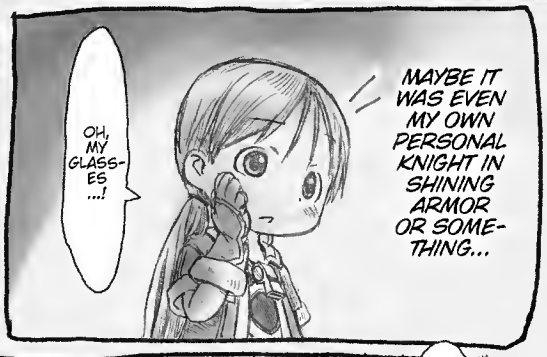


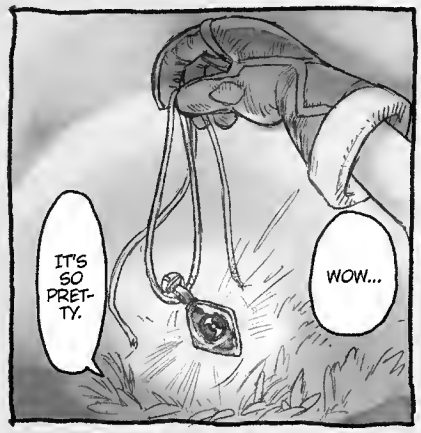

AH... I ACTUALLY PEED MYSELF. WHAT AM I GONNA DO ABOUT MY SOAKING-WET PANTS ...?

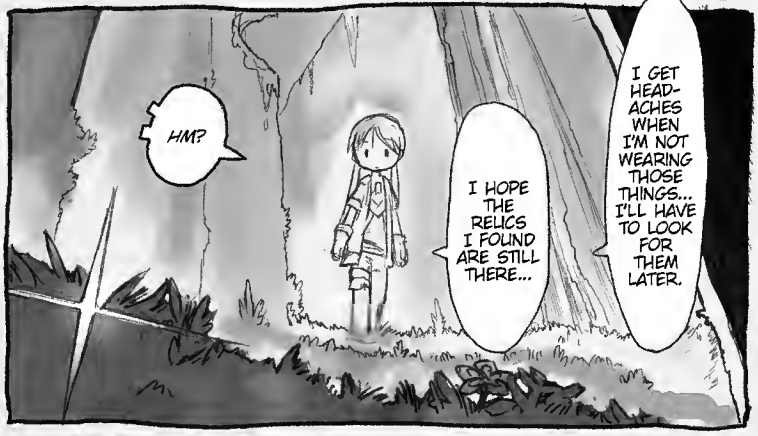

WHAT IT WAS THAT SAVED ME EITHER.
I ALSO DON'T HAVE A CLUE...

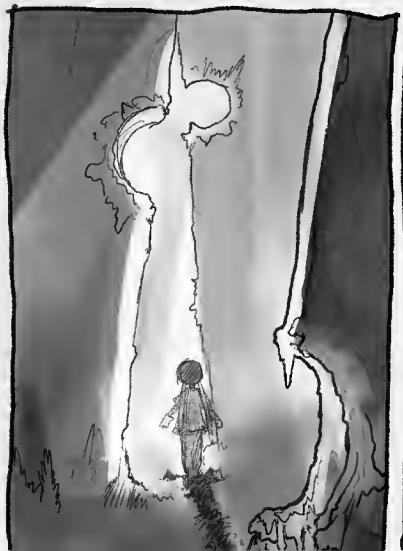

WAS ANSWERING MY PLEA FOR HELP.
MAYBE IT'S ALL IN MY HEAD, BUT I FEEL LIKE WHATEVER DROVE THE SNAKE AWAY...
THE PETRIFIED TREES ARE MELTED.
SORRY, NAT... BUT I JUST FEEL LIKE I HAVE TO FIND OUT WHAT IT WAS.

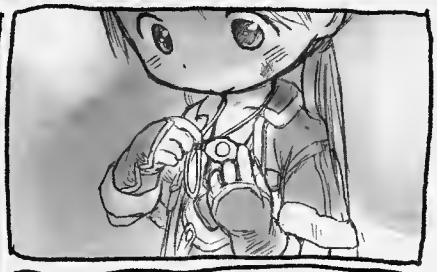
I CAN'T BELIEVE I JUST SAID THAT TO A BOY...
I SHOULD'VE SAID I'D CATCH UP AFTER I FOUND MY GLASSES.
WAIT, WHY'D I TELL HIM I HAD TO PEE?

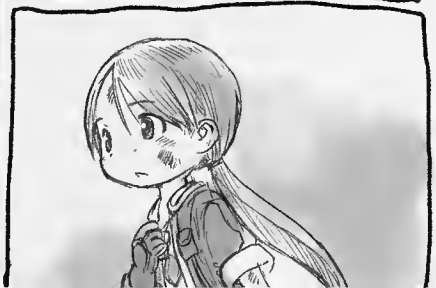

OH, MY GLASSES...!
MAYBE IT WAS EVEN MY OWN PERSONAL KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR OR SOMETHING...

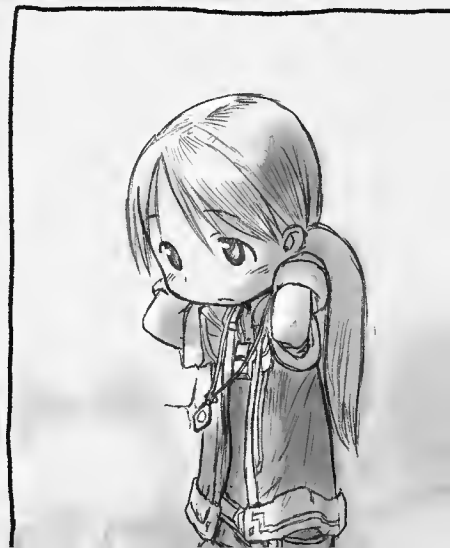

IT'S SO PRETTY.
WOW...

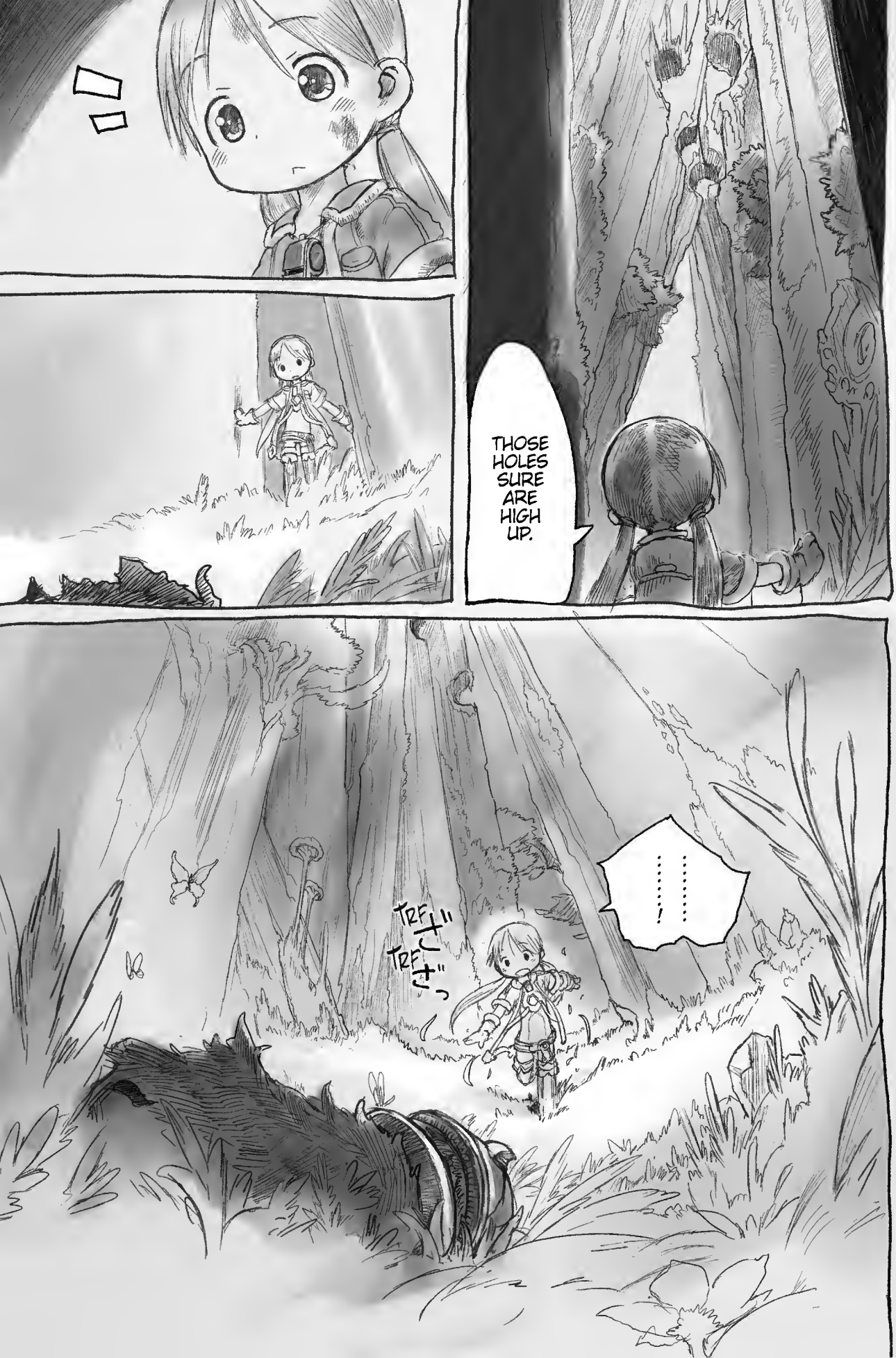

HM?
I HOPE THE RELICS I FOUND ARE STILL THERE...
I GET HEADACHES WHEN I'M NOT WEARING THOSE THINGS... I'LL HAVE TO LOOK FOR THEM LATER.

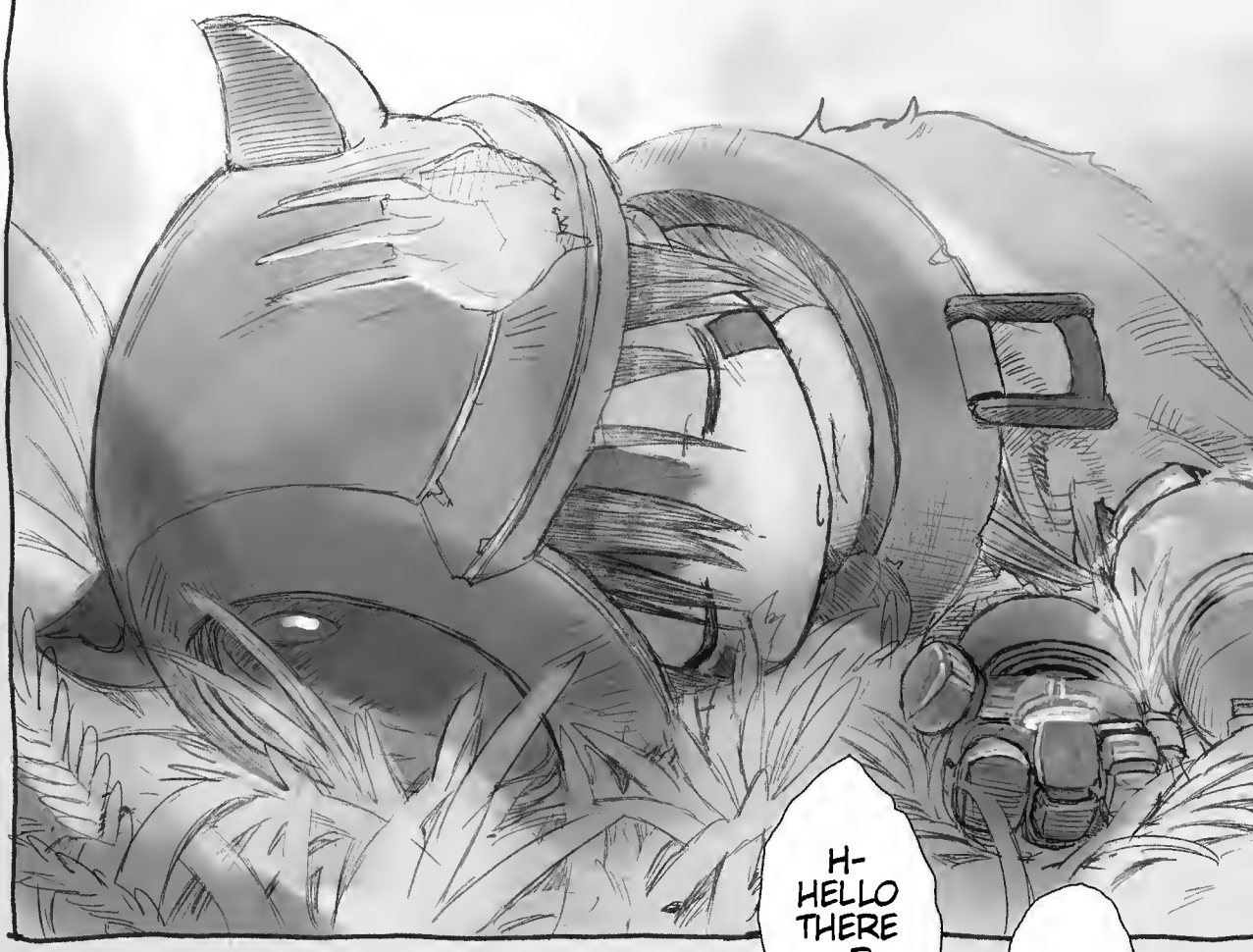






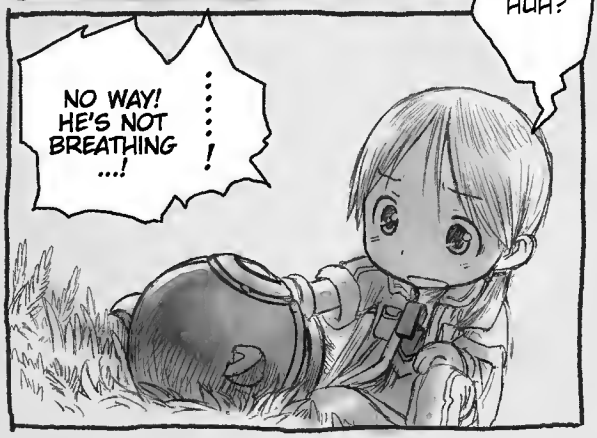


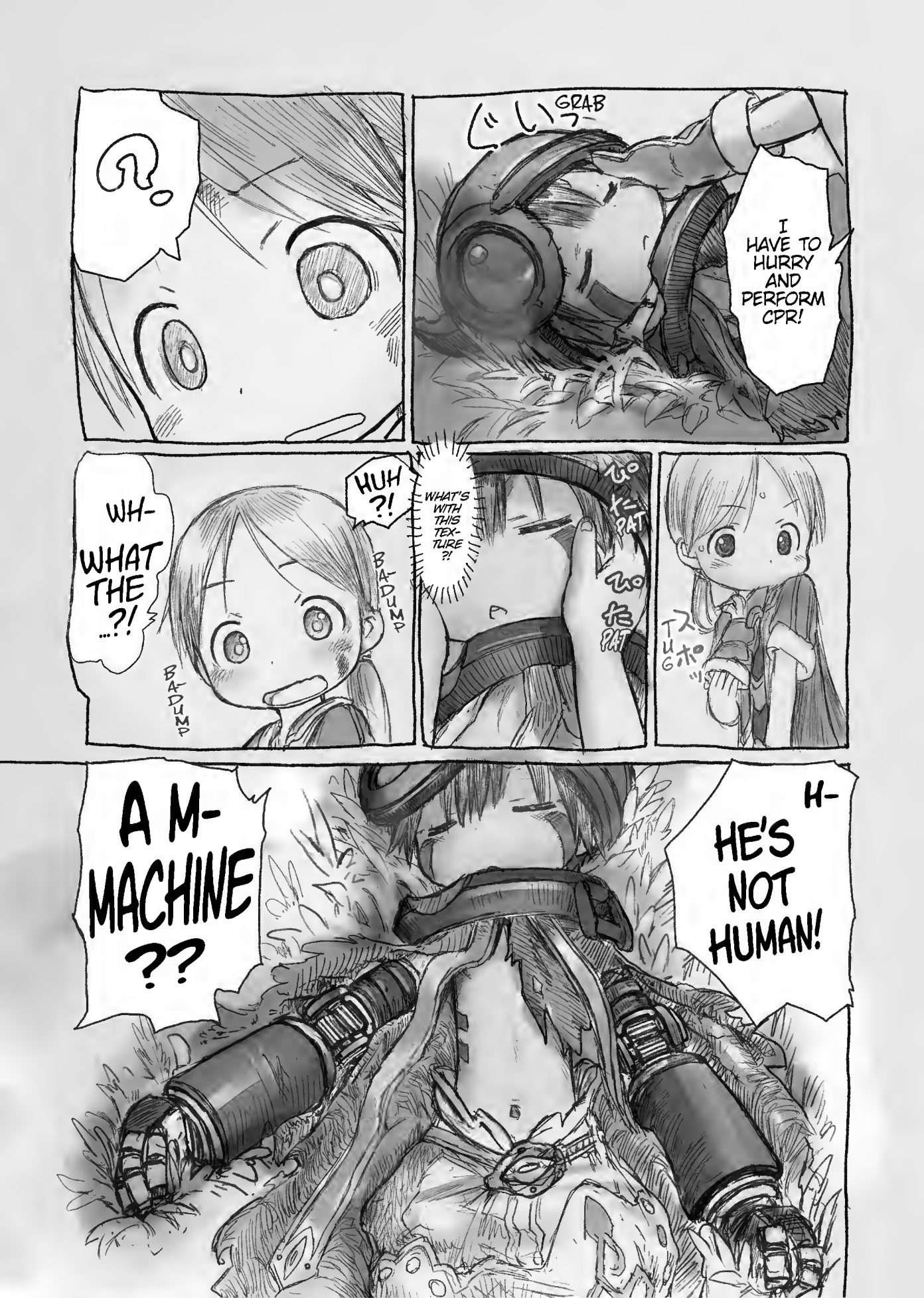

THOSE HOLES SURE ARE HIGH UP.
……!
TRF
TRF

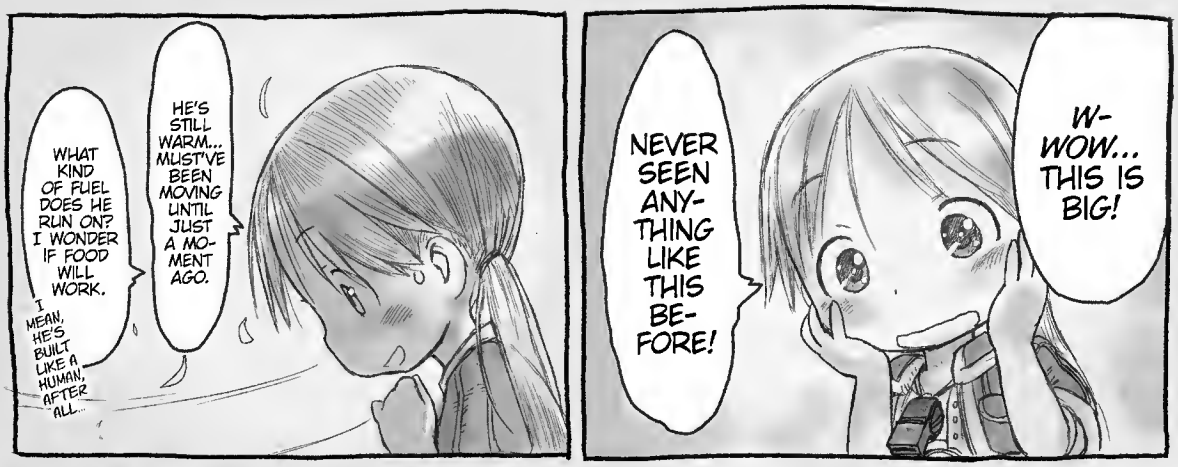

H-HELLO THERE ...?

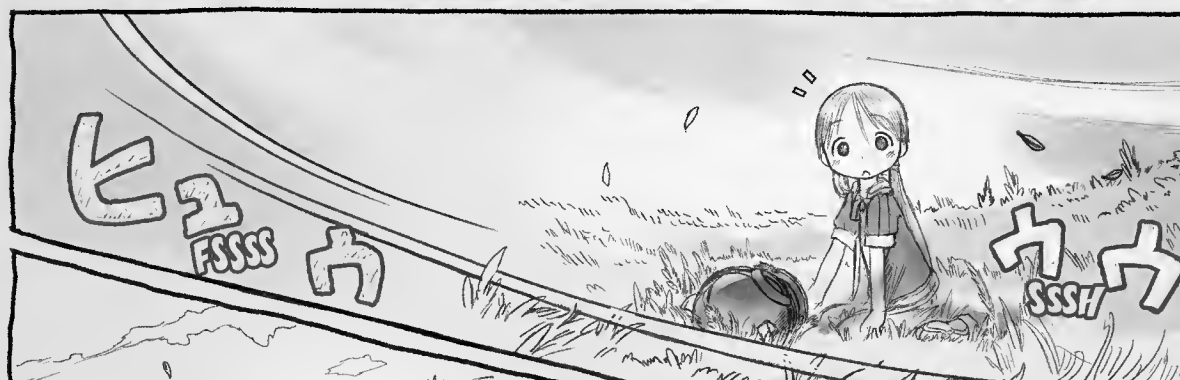
A KID ...?
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
I DON'T REMEMBER THERE BEING A KID WHO LOOKED LIKE THIS IN THE RED WHISTLES...

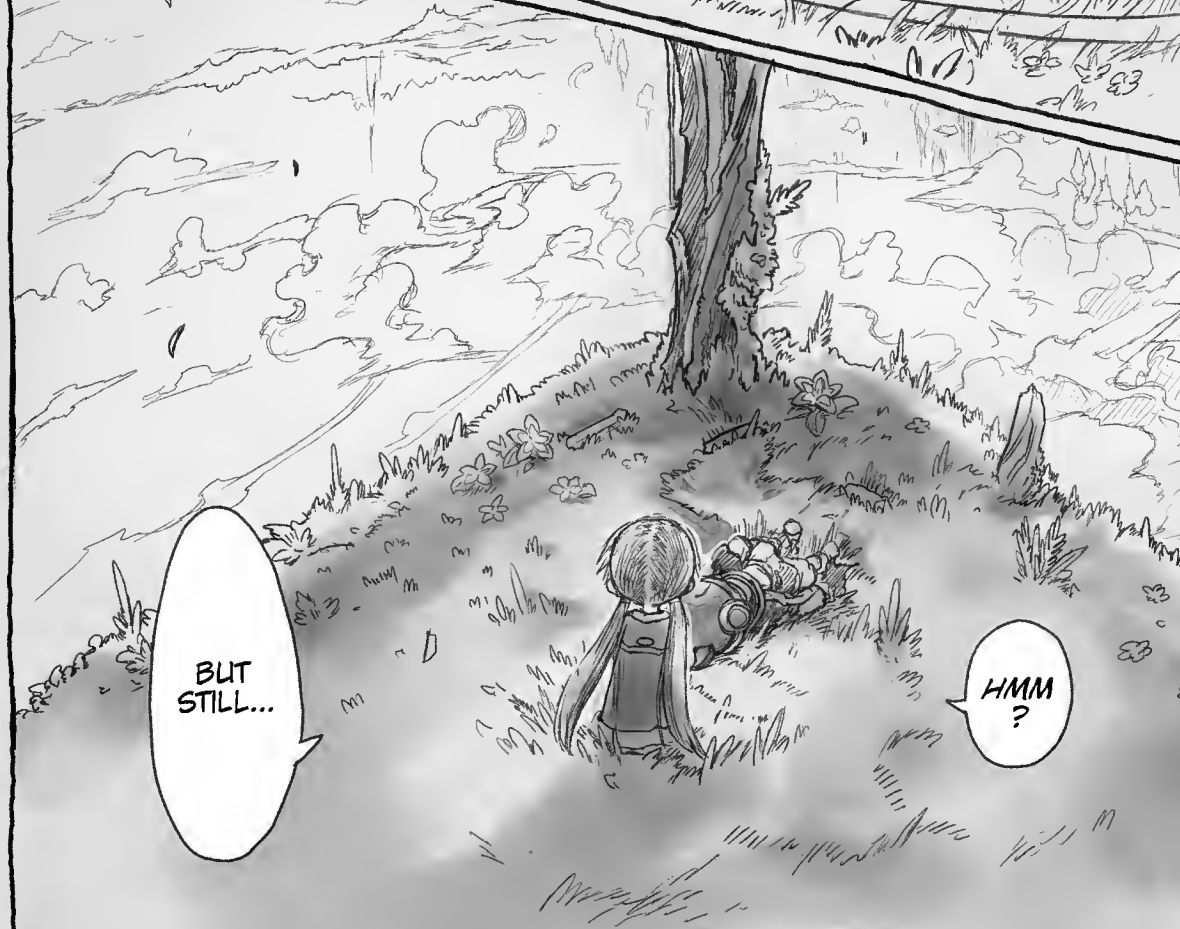
SHUUU...

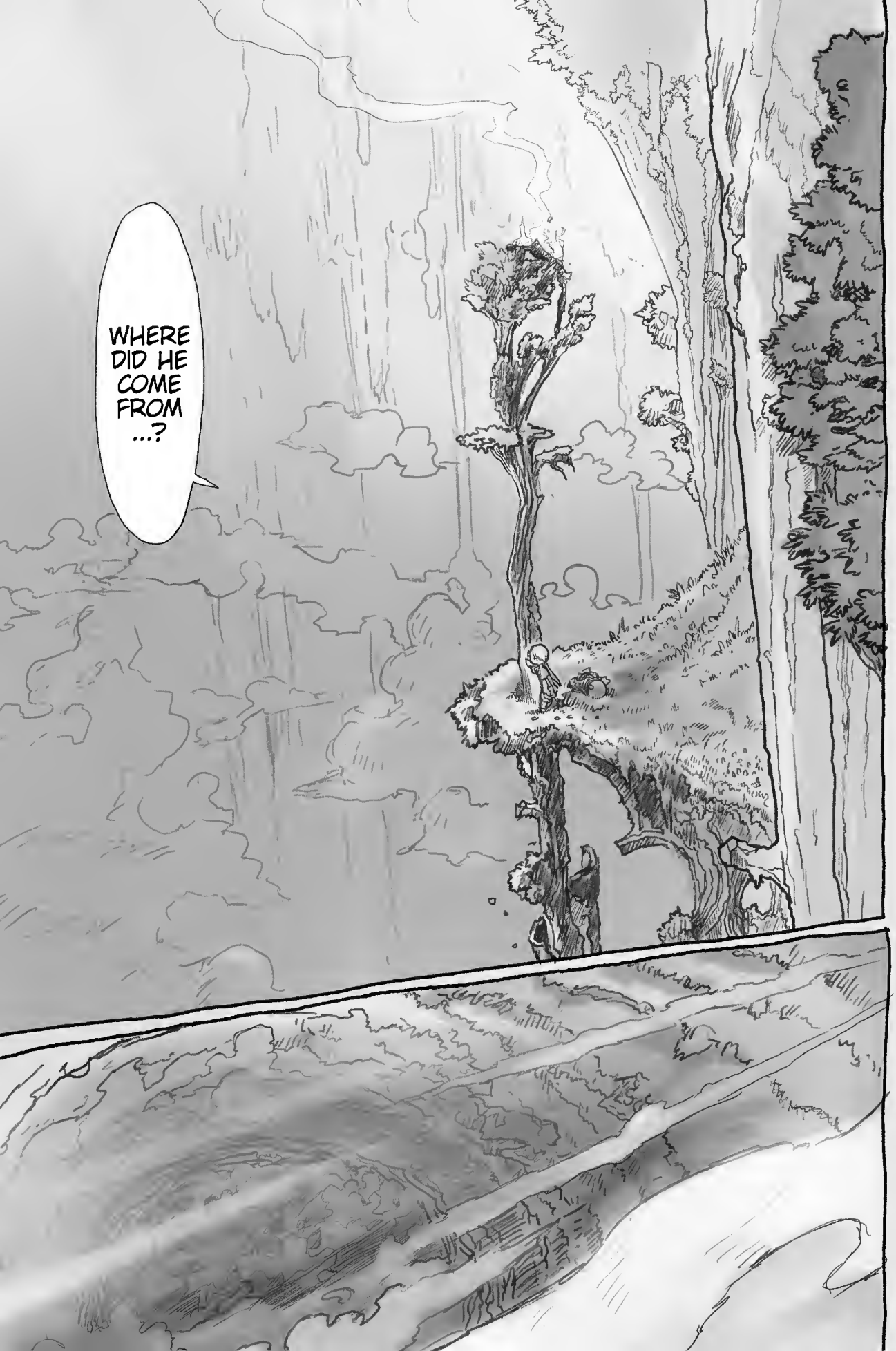

H-HUH?
NO WAY! HE'S NOT BREATHING ...!
.....!


?
GRAB
I HAVE TO HURRY AND PERFORM CPR!
WHAT'S WITH THIS TEXTURE ?!
PAT
PAT
TUG
HUH ?!
BADUMP
BADUMP
WH- WHAT THE ...?!
H- HE'S NOT HUMAN!
A M- MACHINE ??


W-WOW... THIS IS BIG!
NEVER SEEN ANY-THING LIKE THIS BE-FORE!


HE'S STILL WARM... MUST'VE BEEN MOVING UNTIL JUST A MO-MENT AGO.
WHAT KIND OF FUEL DOES HE RUN ON? I WONDER IF FOOD WILL WORK.
I MEAN, HE'S BUILT LIKE A HUMAN, AFTER ALL...


ヒュ
FSSSS
ウ
SSSH
ウ
ウ
HMM ?
BUT STILL...


WHERE DID HE COME FROM ...?

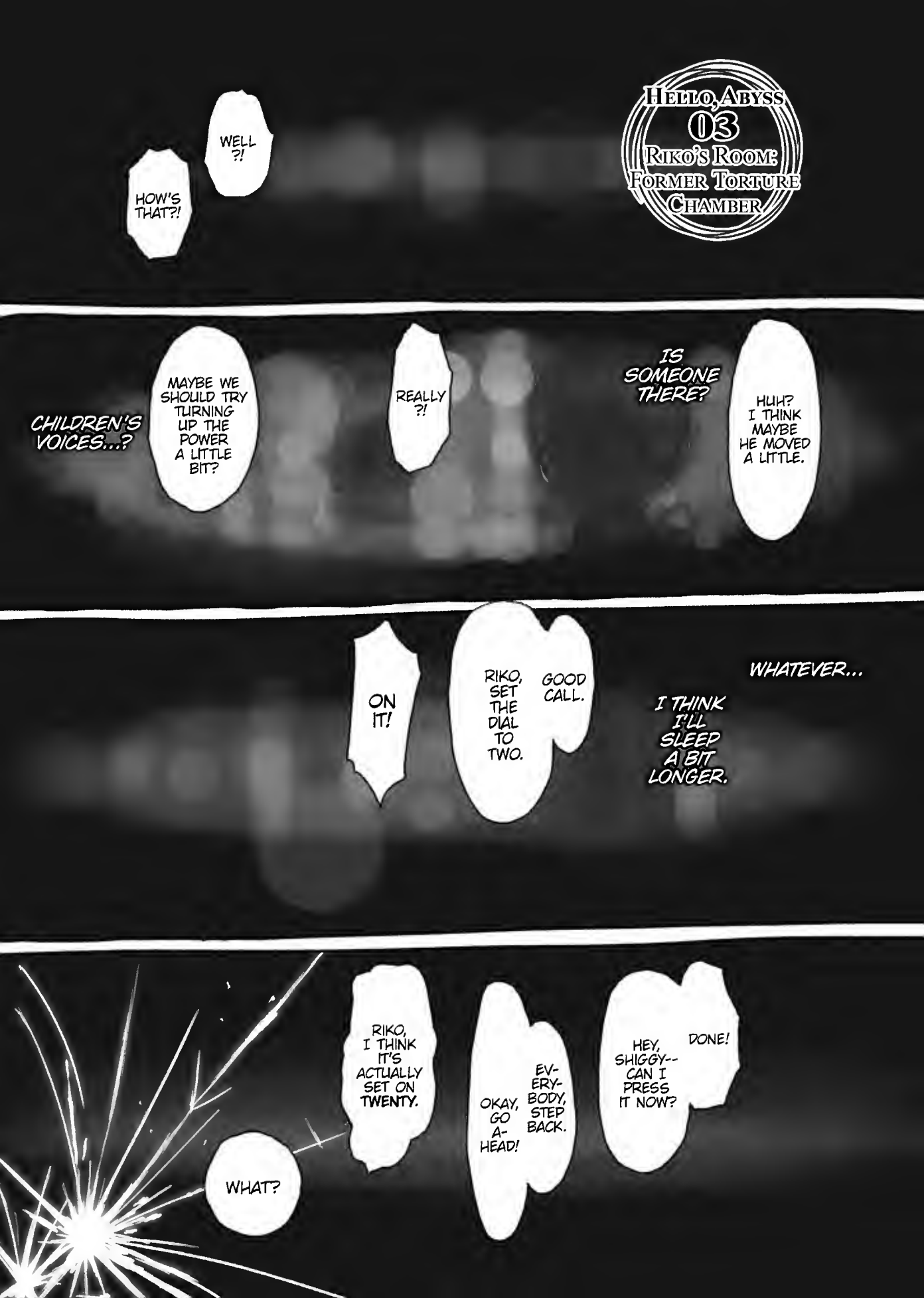
HAMMERBEAK

THESE BIRDS LIVE IN A WIDE AREA RANGING FROM THE SURFACE ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THE FOURTH LAYER OF THE ABYSS. THE DEFINING FEATURE OF THIS SPECIES IS THE WAY ITS BEAK IS FUSED DIRECTLY TO ITS HARD SKULL. THE WINGSPAN OF AN ADULT CAN EXCEED THREE METERS.

MALES BASH THEIR SKULLS AGAINST EACH OTHER IN DISPUTES. SPARKS LITERALLY FLY WHEN THEIR HEADS COLLIDE.

THEIR MEAT IS DELICIOUS AND IS TREASURED AMONG CAVE RAIDERS AS A USEFUL FOOD SOURCE. THE SKULL OF ONE CAN BE USED AS A FLINT FOR STARTING FIRES, COOKWARE, OR EVEN AS A CONTAINER. A SINGLE BIRD CAN PROVIDE BOTH A MEAL AND THE TOOLS NEEDED TO COOK IT.

DANGER LEVEL: ★ (INSIGNIFICANT)


Hello, Abyss
03
Riko's Room: Former Torture Chamber
WELL ?!
HOW'S THAT?!
CHILDREN'S VOICES...?
MAYBE WE SHOULD TRY TURNING UP THE POWER A LITTLE BIT?
REALLY ?!
IS SOMEONE THERE?
HUH? I THINK MAYBE HE MOVED A LITTLE.
ON IT!
RIKO, SET THE DIAL TO TWO.
GOOD CALL.
I THINK I'LL SLEEP A BIT LONGER.
WHATEVER...
WHAT?
RIKO, I THINK IT'S ACTUALLY SET ON TWENTY.
OKAY, GO A-HEAD!
EV-ERY-BODY, STEP BACK.
HEY, SHIGGY-- CAN I PRESS IT NOW?
DONE!

EEARGH!!
BRZZT
BRZZT
BRZZT
HE WOKE UP!
SERIOUSLY ?!
COUGH!
WHOA.
ボスン
SST

OH, SORRY. MY NAME'S RIKO! BUT YOU CAN JUST CALL ME "BIG SIS" IF YOU WANT!
HEY, DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY! HE LOOKS KINDA OVER-WHELMED ...
AND WHERE YOU'RE FROM!
AH, BUT FIRST, TELL ME YOUR NAME!
SO, HOW DID YOU ATTACK THE SNAKE FROM SO FAR AWAY?
RECOGNIZE ME? YOU SAVED ME!
HEY, HEY-- ROBOT BOY!
WHAT'S GOING ON...?
WHA...?
SEE?! I TOLD YOU ELEC-TRICITY WOULD DO THE TRICK!
YEAH, WELL WHO WAS THE ONE WHO FED HIM CHARRED COALS YES-TERDAY?
HUH...?
WHERE AM I?
WHAT I'M SAYING ?
UMM, LET'S TRY HAND SIG-NALS, THEN. CAN... YOU... UNDER-STAND ...
OH, GOOD POINT!
MAYBE HE DOESN'T UNDER-STAND OUR LAN-GUAGE ?
.....
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MELTED THOSE PETRIFIED TREES, RIGHT?
WHERE ...
NO...
IS THIS PLACE?
WHAT? WHAT?! ASK WHAT-EVER YOU WANT!
THERE'S SOME-THING I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU--
HOW CUTE!
HE SPOKE!
I FEEL BAD ABOUT REPLYING TO A QUESTION WITH A QUESTION, BUT...

FIRST OF ALL...
WHO AM I, AGAIN?
THIS IS MY ROOM!
HERE?
WEL-COME TO ORTH, THE CITY OF THE GREAT PIT...
ROBOT-KUN!
WE'RE AT THE TOP OF THE ABYSS!

SINISTER IMPLEMENTS... AND THAT PAIN JUST NOW ...
DO YOU GUYS WORK AS TORTURERS ?
HUH?!
WELL ...
RIKO'S ROOM IS ACTUALLY AN OLD TORTURE CHAMBER.
SHE WAS ALWAYS GETTING IN TROUBLE, SO SHE GOT MOVED HERE.
ANYWAY ...
WE ALL WORK AS CAVE RAIDERS.
WELL, STRICTLY SPEAKING, WE'RE APPRENTICES CALLED "RED WHISTLES."
WE GO DOWN INTO THE ABYSS AND LOOK FOR REL--!
HEY, HEY-- ROBOT BOY!
WHY DON'T YOU TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF NOW ?!
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
WHAT KIND OF STUFF CAN YOU DO?
AND WHO MADE YOU?
THIS ISN'T MAKING MUCH SENSE TO ME. MIND IF I ASK YOU SOMETHING ?
IT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME FROM THE START, BUT...
AM I...
REALLY A ROBOT?

YOU BET YOU ARE!

ELECTRICITY MADE YOU MOVE!

YOU TOTALLY WITHSTOOD FIRE!

AND YOU DIDN'T EVEN GET A SINGLE SCRATCH ON YOU!

PHWAM

GUYS, THIS IS BAD!

MAYBE THAT JOLT OF ELECTRICITY WE GAVE HIM MESSED WITH HIS MEMORY?

WAIT A MINUTE... YOU DON'T EVEN REMEMBER THAT YOU'RE A ROBOT?

ALL THE LIGHTS IN THE ORPHANAGE ARE OUT!

I THINK WE OVERDID IT BY GOING FULL THROTTLE EARLIER ...!

HIDE HIM, *QUICK!*

LEADER'S HEADING STRAIGHT OVER HERE!

WHAT?! HOW DID HE KNOW IT WAS US?!

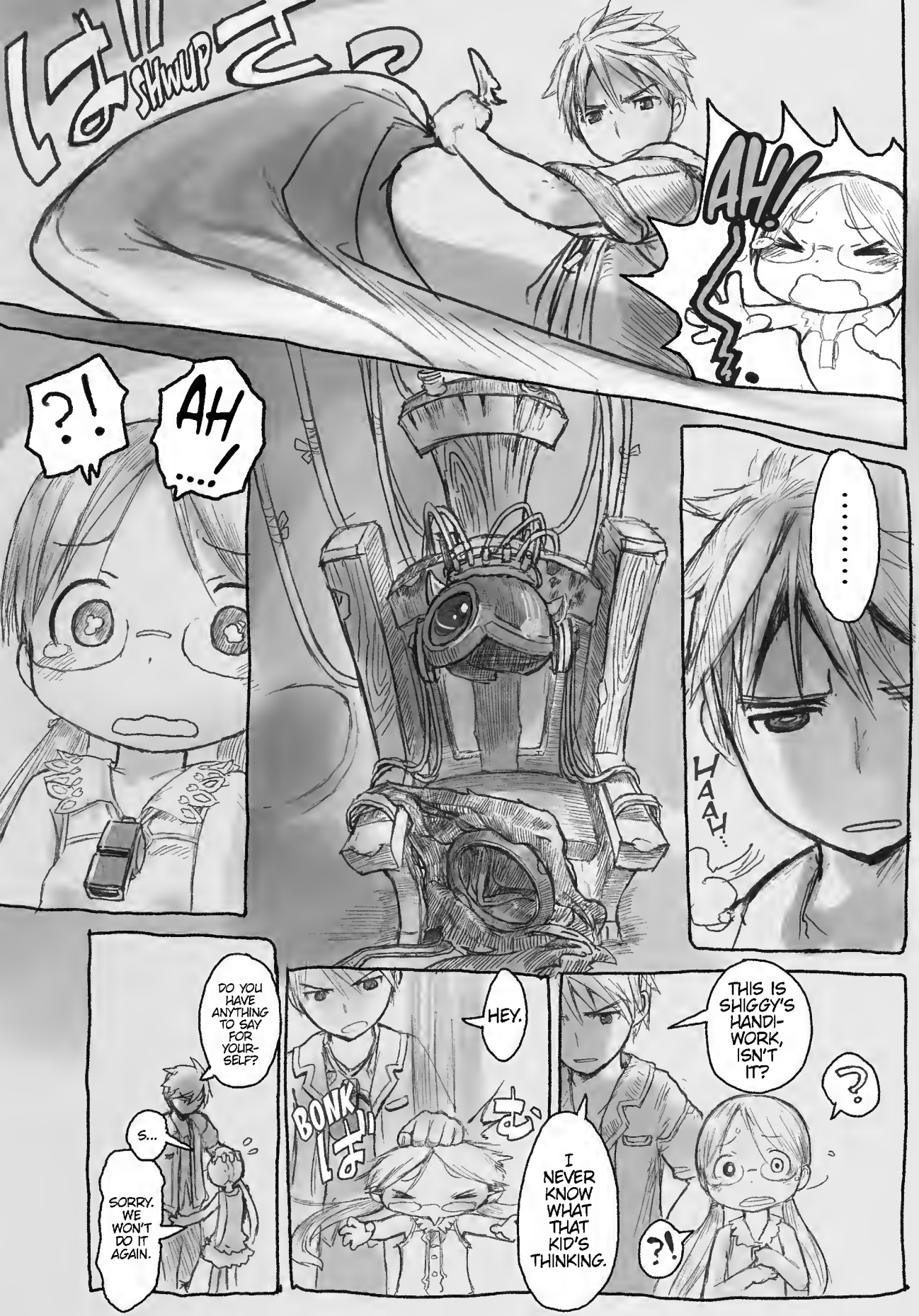
PROBABLY 'CAUSE WE'RE *ALWAYS* PULLING STUFF. CAN YOU STAND?

GUESS WE'VE GOTTA GET THAT STUFF OFF YOU FIRST, HUH?

カチャ GA-CHIN

UMM... WE NEED SOMETHING BIGGER...!
HURRY!
RIKO!
DO YOUR BEST TO FOOL HIM SOMEHOW!
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...
ばさっ FLUMP
WORSE THAN THAT PAIN EARLIER?!
.....!!
ガバッ BLANCH
DON'T COME OUT OF THERE!
GOT IT?
SOMETHING HORRIBLE'S BOUND TO HAPPEN TO YOU IF YOU DO.
GAH?!
WHUNK ガー
O-OKAY!
I'M COMING NOW--!
ガラ CRASH
ドシャ CLATTER
ドー BANG
HEY, RIKO! OPEN UP!
ドー BANG

WHAT'D YOU DO THIS TIME?
UH... NOTHING ... MUCH REALLY ... A- AND ANY-WAY...
I-I JUST BANGED MY KNEE-- CAUGHT IT AT A BAD ANGLE, TOO.
.....
キイ CREAK...
I-IT HURTS REAL-LY BAD ...!
I HIT IT IN THE WORST POS-SIBLE WAY ...
PUSH PUSH...
STRIDE
WAI...
AAAAHHH?!
...


SHWUP
AH!
?!
AH...!
.....
HAAH...
DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?
S...
SORRY. WE WON'T DO IT AGAIN.
HEY.
BONK
THIS IS SHIGGY'S HANDIWORK, ISN'T IT?
?
I NEVER KNOW WHAT THAT KID'S THINKING.
?!

LOOK, I GET THAT YOU'RE FRUSTRATED 'CAUSE YOUR CAVE RAIDING DIDN'T GO VERY WELL. THAT SAID...
THERE'S SIMPLY NO SENSE IN CAUSING A *BLACKOUT* AT THE ORPHANAGE...
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE, LOOKING AWAY WHILE I'M LECTURING YOU.
NOW, BEFORE I HEAR YOUR EXPLANATION FOR THIS MESS...
I THINK I'LL HAVE YOU CLEAN THE ORPHANAGE AND WRITE BOTH AN APOLOGY *AND* AN ESSAY ABOUT WHAT YOU DID WRONG.
COME ON NOW.
OWWW!
HEY.

I'M SOOORRY!

DRAG

DRAG

SLAM

.....

ARE THEY GONE?

I GET IT NOW. IF HE WAS TO FIND ME HERE, THERE'D BE TROUBLE...

SWEE

EVEN SO...

TO THINK MY ARM CAN EXTEND LIKE THAT...

CONK

.....

I STILL FEEL A BIT OUT OF SORTS.

I'VE GOT EXTEND-ABLE METAL ARMS...

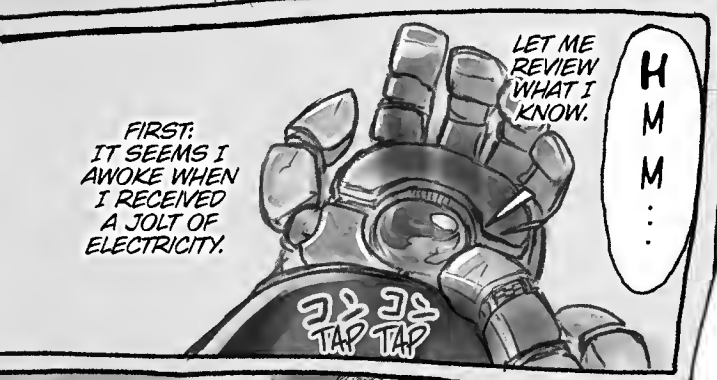
AND THIS HEL-MET.

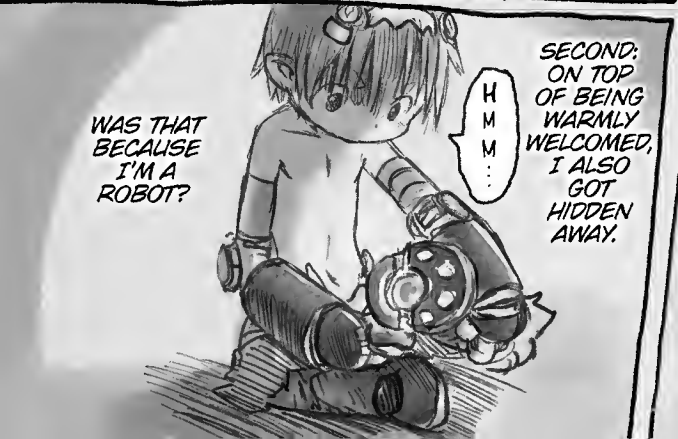
TALK ABOUT SUSPI-CIOUS.

TWAANG

WHAT...

AM I?

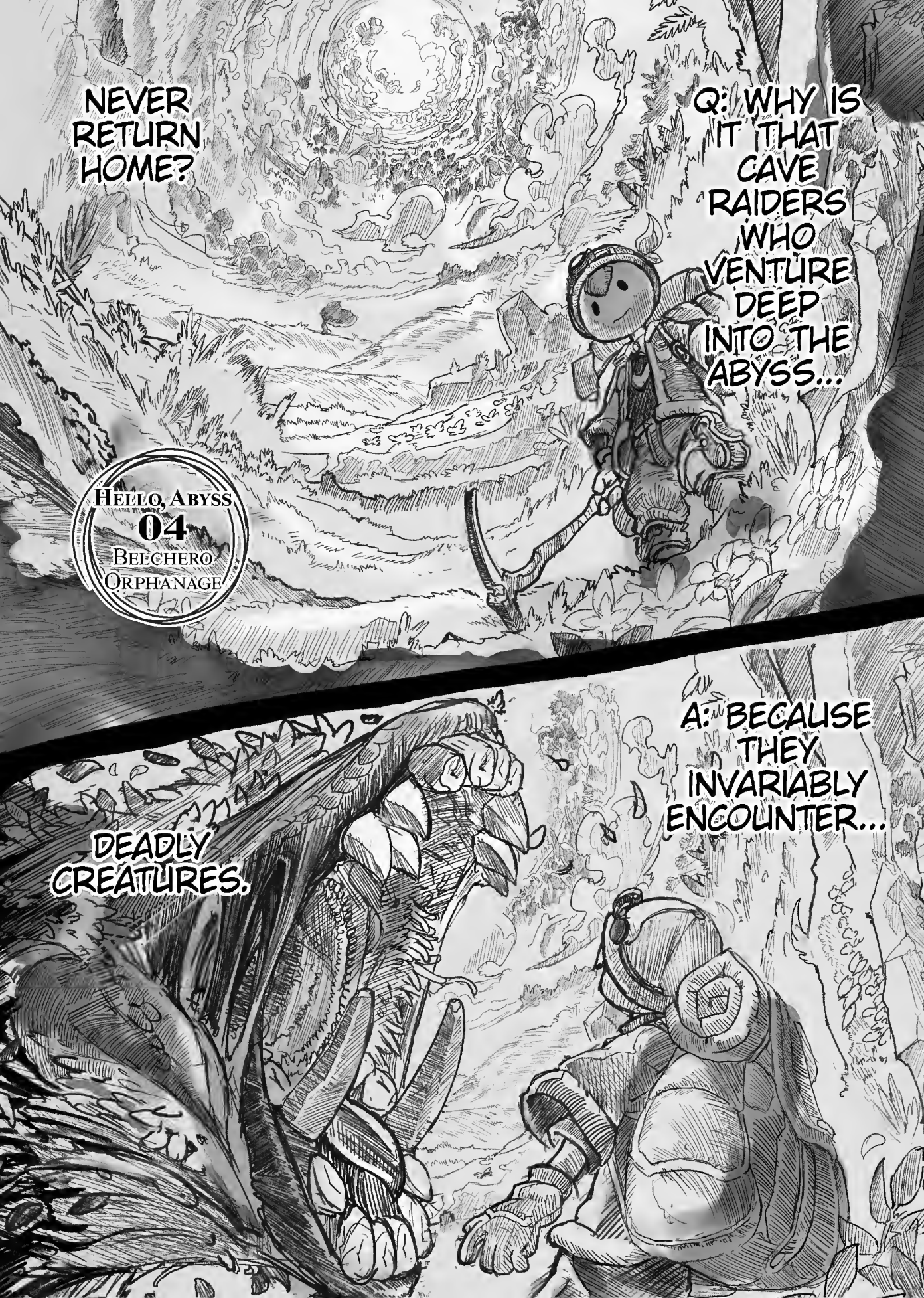

LET ME REVIEW WHAT I KNOW.
HMM...
FIRST: IT SEEMS I AWOKE WHEN I RECEIVED A JOLT OF ELECTRICITY.
コン コン TAP TAP

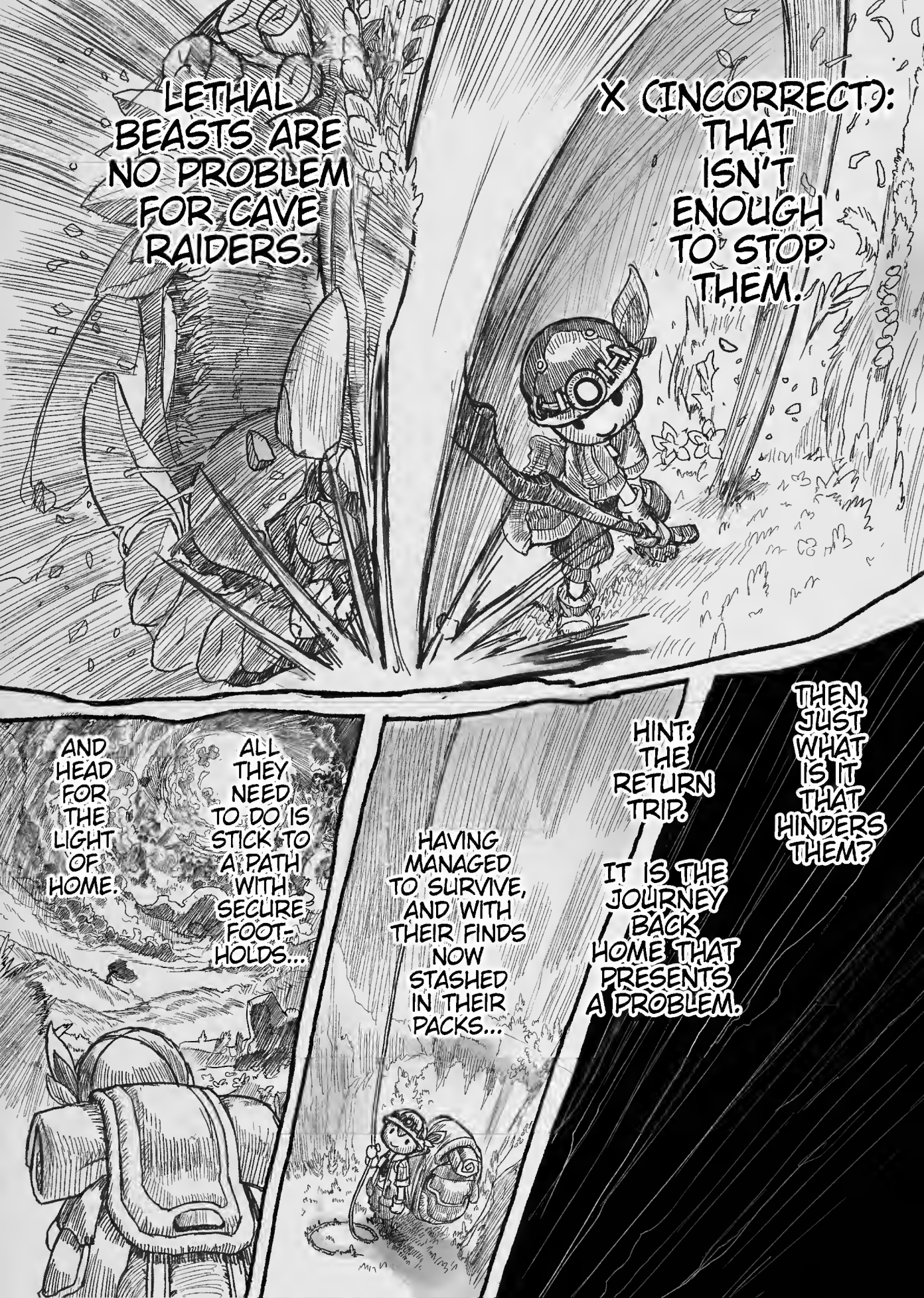

SECOND: ON TOP OF BEING WARMLY WELCOMED, I ALSO GOT HIDDEN AWAY.
HMM...
WAS THAT BECAUSE I'M A ROBOT?

IF WHAT THAT GIRL WITH THE GLASSES AND BIG FOREHEAD SAYS IS TRUE...
AND I AM A ROBOT ...
THEN MAYBE I'VE GOT A NAME OR SOMETHING WRITTEN ON ME SOME-WHERE?

DO I NEED THIS THING TOO?!
HUH ?!
SHFF
REALLY NEED A BELLY BUTTON?
DOES A ROBOT ...
BUT WOULDN'T ANYONE WAKE UP AFTER GETTING AN ELECTRIC SHOCK LIKE THAT?
GUI
HM?
WHAT SHOULD THE THIRD THING ON MY LIST BE? HOW ABOUT "MY ARM EXTENDED" ...?
KA-
CLAK
THIS IS MAKING LESS AND LESS SENSE.
I'M ALSO STARTING TO GET A BIT HUNGRY ...
BESIDES, DO ROBOTS EVEN QUESTION THINGS THE WAY I AM RIGHT NOW?
!!
CLATTER
WHAT'S THIS?
SOME KIND OF SYMBOL ...?

TEE HEE HEE HEE!
I TOOK THE CHANCE TO SNEAK AWAY WHEN SHIGGY AND THE OTHERS GOT CAUGHT.
WHAT'RE YOU...?!
KREEI
SHH!
SHIPA
RIKO! WHERE ARE YOU?!
OH CRAP!
OH? WHAT'S THIS? YOU GETTING ALL DRESSED UP?
NO... I'M JUST --!
FOURTH: THAT GIRL'S IN A WHOLE LOT OF TROUBLE.
THIRD: MY ARMS EXTEND.
COME! NOW YOU OWE ME TWO OF THOSE ESSAYS!
AH, UMM...
YOU'VE GOT SOME REAL GUTS TO DISAPPEAR IN THE MIDDLE OF MY LECTURE!
RIKO...!
SOOOORY!
SHUU
BA-WHAM
HIDE...


NEVER RETURN HOME?
Q: WHY IS IT THAT CAVE RAIDERS WHO VENTURE DEEP INTO THE ABYSS...
HELLO, ABYSS
04
BELCHERO ORPHANAGE
A: BECAUSE THEY INVARIABLY ENCOUNTER...
DEADLY CREATURES.


LETHAL BEASTS ARE NO PROBLEM FOR CAVE RAIDERS.
X (INCORRECT): THAT ISN'T ENOUGH TO STOP THEM.
AND HEAD FOR THE LIGHT OF HOME.
ALL THEY NEED TO DO IS STICK TO A PATH WITH SECURE FOOT-HOLDS...
HAVING MANAGED TO SURVIVE, AND WITH THEIR FINDS NOW STASHED IN THEIR PACKS...
HINT: THE RETURN TRIP.
IT IS THE JOURNEY BACK HOME THAT PRESENTS A PROBLEM.
THEN, JUST WHAT IS IT THAT HINDERS THEM?

From the third layer: in addition to the aforementioned effects, other complications include problems with your sense of balance, as well as visual and auditory hallucinations.
From the fourth layer: intense pain throughout the body and bleeding from every orifice.
OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN.
BY A MYSTERIOUS PHENOMENON ...
From the second layer to the first layer: intense nausea, headaches, and numbness of the extremities.
HOWEVER, THEIR HOPES OF A SAFE RETURN ARE QUICKLY THWARTED...
Strains encountered while ascending from the depths' first layer to the surface: mild dizziness and nausea.
THE DEEPER DOWN YOU GO.
From the fifth layer: the loss of all senses, resulting in confusion and self-harm.
THE STRAINS ENCOUNTERED ON THE RETURN TRIP BECOME MORE AND MORE SEVERE...
From the sixth layer: the loss of your humanity or even death.
THEY CALL IT "THE CURSE OF THE ABYSS."
FOR ANY CAVE RAIDER WHO IS HUMAN, THERE IS NO GETTING AROUND IT...
Strain of ascending from the seventh layer: **certain death.**

FOR ANY CAVE RAIDER WHO IS HUMAN, THERE IS NO WAY TO ESCAPE THIS CURSE.
LET ME REPEAT THAT...
I MEAN, YOU MUST'VE COME FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE ABYSS, RIGHT?!
SO THAT MEANS ...
A ROBOT LIKE YOU SHOULDN'T BE AF-FECTED BY THE CURSE!

HMM.
DID I COME UP HERE TO DO?
THEN WHAT IN THE WORLD ...
ASSUMING THAT'S TRUE ...
MUNCH
MUNCH
THAT DOES MAKE SENSE, BUT...
I BET YOU WERE AN ATTACK ROBOT WHO WAS COMING TO INVADE THE SURFACE!
I KNOW!
DA-DAN
AND NEITHER FIRE NOR BLADE CAN DAMAGE YOUR BODY...
MAYBE YOU'RE A MESSENGER OF PEACE...? NAH. YOU HAVE THE POWER TO MELT THROUGH PETRIFIED TREES...
PAGE
PAGE
THAT'S RIGHT!
AND THEN YOU GOT RESCUED BY US, AND WE STARTED COMMUNI-CATING WITH EACH OTH--
YOU USED YOUR WEAPONS MEANT FOR THE INVASION TO ATTACK THAT CREATURE-- AND IN THE PROCESS YOU COMPLETELY RAN OUT OF ENERGY AND LOST YOUR MEMORY.
TWING
IN ORDER TO SAVE A SWEET YOUNG MAIDEN...
BUT ...
HEY, NOW.

EEAARGH!!
AFTER WHAT YOU DID TO ME, WHAT IN THE WORLD MADE YOU THINK I'D BE KIND TO YOU...?
ピポパポ
YOU AWOKE THANKS TO THE KIND-NESS OF HUMANS!
THAT IMAGINATION OF YOURS IS IRREDEEM-ABLE.
MAY I HAVE A MOMENT, PLEASE?
NOW, EVERY-BODY...
OH!
IT'S THE COMPILATION OF RECORDED RELICS. I LOVE THIS THING.
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HIM I'D LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU.
I KNOW.
I SEE YOU READING IT ALL THE TIME.

Grade-2 Relic:
Tomorrow Signal
A vane for divining the weather.
Grade-2 Relic:
Gold Shaker
A dust-collecting pot.
IT'S GOT ALL THE MAJOR RELICS THAT HAVE BEEN UNEARTHED.
IT'S BASICALLY AN ILLUSTRATED FIELD GUIDE TO THEM.
Grade-1 Relic:
Third Works
An arm that can be controlled via psychokinesis.
Grade-1 Relic:
Ghost Seek
Glasses through which invisible light is made visible.
Grade-1 Relic:
Nil Fount
A water-generating cup.
Grade-1 Relic:
Star Thread
A thread that never breaks.
Grade-1 Relic:
Grim Reaper
Iron-cutting shears.
Special-Grade Relic:
Deep Sea Lion
Life-prolonging liquor.
SHE'S SO CLOSE...
Special-Grade Relic:
Unheard Bell
A bell that stops time.
OH!
IT'S THE UNHEARD BELL!
YOU KNOW, ROBO-BOY, MY MOTHER WAS THE ONE WHO FOUND IT.

HIS METALLIC-LOOKING PARTS ARE MADE OF SOME KIND OF MYSTERIOUS, SUPER-FLEXIBLE METAL. AND ALTHOUGH THEY'RE ALREADY COVERED IN MARKS, I COULDN'T PUT A SCRATCH ON THEM--NOT EVEN WHEN I USED A DRILL.

BESIDES ALL THAT, HIS ARMS CAN EXTEND. AND EVEN THOUGH HE DIDN'T LIKE IT, WHEN I TIE THEM TOGETHER, IT APPEARS HIS HANDS WERE ABLE TO UNTIE THEMSELVES.

HE HAS SKIN THAT'S SMOOTH DESPITE BEING STRONG ENOUGH TO STOP A BLADE...

HE POSSESSES A STRANGE POWER THAT CAN MELT PETRIFIED TREES IN AN INSTANT.

THE MYSTERIOUS WAY HE'S POWERED WORKS WITH EITHER ELECTRICITY OR FOOD.

HE'S GOT A BELLY BUTTON AND NIPPLES, BUT THEY AREN'T BUTTONS OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

DESPITE HAVING INCREDIBLE GRIP STRENGTH, HE HELD MY HAND VERY GENTLY. HE'S A GENTLEMANLY ROBOT!

HE ALSO HAS A KEEN NOSE, WHICH ALLOWED HIM TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN KIYUI'S SHOES AND MINE BY SMELL ALONE.

AND HE EVEN CRIES AND SWEATS. ALSO, HIS HAIR DOESN'T BURN WHEN A FLAME IS HELD TO IT. SEEMS HIS VISION AND HEARING ARE BETTER THAN MINE TOO.

SO I TRIED TO PROBE HIM WITH A MEASURING STICK, BUT IT BROKE WHILE INSIDE HIM...
I TOOK A LOOK INSIDE HIS BUTTHOLE, BUT I COULDN'T REALLY SEE MUCH...
LEAVING ASIDE THE SECOND HALF OF THE REPORT, NONE OF THOSE FEATURES ARE LISTED WITHIN THE RELIC RECORD. AND SUPPOSING THEY WERE, THEY'D BE CLASSIFIED ABOVE EVEN GRADE-1.
I GOT THE STICK OUT AT LEAST.
SORRY... WE COULDN'T STOP HER.
PENIS?
ALSO, HIS PENIS DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE MECHANICAL BUT MORE LIKE A REAL ON--
OKAY, RIKO, THAT'S ENOUGH ...
A SO-CALLED "ALI-BADE."
A SUPREME TREASURE OF THE NETHER-WORLD.
HIS BODY SEEMS TO BE A BUNDLE OF SPECIAL-GRADE RELICS. HE MIGHT EVEN BE ONE OF THE MOST VALUABLE FINDS IN THE HISTORY OF THE ABYSS.

MAYBE NOW MY STAR COMPASS AND SCALED UMBRELLA WILL FINALLY GET THEIR TIME IN THE SPOTLIGHT TOO!
NOT EVEN MY MOTHER, A WHITE WHISTLE, EVER FOUND ONE OF THOSE!
THAT'S SUPER AWE-SOME!!!

WHAT IF WE JUST ANNOUNCE OUR FIND NOW?
AWWW...

WE'VE ALREADY BASICALLY "STOLEN" HIM FOR OURSELVES, YOU KNOW.
WELL... SUPPOSING HE IS A SUPREME TREASURE OF THE NETHER-WORLD...

STRUNG UP NAKED ...?
AAAW WWW...
AW...
AND THIS TIME, RIKO'S PUNISHMENT WILL BE A LOT WORSE THAN GETTING STRUNG UP NAKED.
.....

THEY'LL PROBABLY EVEN DISMANTLE HIM PIECE BY PIECE.
AND CONCEAL HIS EXISTENCE AS A SUPREME TREASURE OF THE NETHER-WORLD.
THEY'LL TAKE HIM AWAY FROM US IMMEDI-ATELY ...
CONSID-ERING HIS BODY ISN'T AFFECTED BY THE CURSE, I THINK THAT ALONE MAKES HIM DANGER-OUSLY VALU-ABLE.

AND THAT'S NOT ALL!
OUR USUAL CLASSES AND JOBS START UP AGAIN TOMORROW!
JEEZ, THINGS GOT DULL PRETTY FAST.
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT. WE WON'T BE ABLE TO STAY WITH HIM ALL THE TIME ANYMORE...
トーン
CLENCH
BUT ...!
W-WELL THEN, I'LL KEEP HIM HIDDEN IN MY ROOM !!
THAT SHOULD WORK, RIGHT ?!
HIGHLY UNLIKELY. THEY FOUND OUT ABOUT THAT DOG YOU HAD.
.....
RIGHT.
WHICH IS WHY...
WE SHOULD JUST LET EVERYONE KNOW ABOUT HIM.
WHOA
WANNA GIVE THAT A TRY?
LET'S THINK UP A STRATEGY...
SERIOUSLY?!
TO HAVE HIM AND LEADER MEET!
SNORE... スヤリ...

I WONDER IF... THIS PLAN'S ACTUALLY GOING TO WORK.
H-HOW'S IT GOING ?!
I CAN'T BEAR TO WATCH ANY-MORE.
WITH THOSE CLOTHES, LEADER WON'T SUSPECT HE'S A ROBOT. BUT AS FOR THE REST...

SO YOU WANT TO BE A CAVE RAIDER ...?
WHAT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY? YOU DO KNOW THIS IS AN ORPHANAGE, RIGHT?
I DON'T HAVE ANY FAMILY. MY BIG SISTER DIED, SO...
I CAME HERE.
BUT BEFORE SHE PASSED AWAY, SHE TOLD ME I CAN BECOME A CAVE RAIDER IF I WORK HERE.
SQUEEZE...
DESPITE BEING A ROBOT, HE'S ACTING NERVOUS! THAT'S SOME IMPRESSIVE FUNCTIONALITY!
YOU CALL THAT IMPRESSIVE?
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU WERE BORN IN ORTH. WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
I'M NOT SURE. MY SISTER FOUND ME A YEAR AGO.
?
I WAS IN AN ACCIDENT, SO I DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORIES FROM BEFORE THEN.
AFTER THAT, I BEGAN RAG-PICKING WITH HER IN THE WHARF QUARTER IN ORTH'S SOUTH DISTRICT.
YOU THINK THAT BACK-STORY'S OKAY?
I DOUBT THAT LEADER'S EVER BEEN TO THE SLUMS.
HEH HEH HEH... SEEMS LIKE IT IS, RIGHT?
.....
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HAND?

TUG
!

HE ASKED ...!
IF HE CAN JUST PULL THIS OFF ...
IT'S, UH... BEEN LIKE THIS FOR THE FULL YEAR I'VE HAD MY MEMORY.
AN OLD MAN IN THE WHARF QUARTER SAID IT'S FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY ...

CLENCH IT FOR ME.
HMM ...
SEEMS YOUR GRIP IS STRONG ENOUGH. VERY WELL, THEN.

WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING ?!
HE'S STILL LOOKING AT IT!
AND HE'S TOUCHING IT ALL OVER, TOO!
HE REMEMBERED HIS LINES AND IS DOING A GOOD JOB ACTING, BUT...
.....

.....

WHOA! HE PULLED IT OFF.
THAT NAME HE USED WAS YOUR IDEA, WASN'T IT, RIKO?
WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU EXPECT FROM AN ALIBADE!
YEP!
AND HE REALLY LIKED IT!

REG.
AND YOUR NAME IS?
IT'S REG.

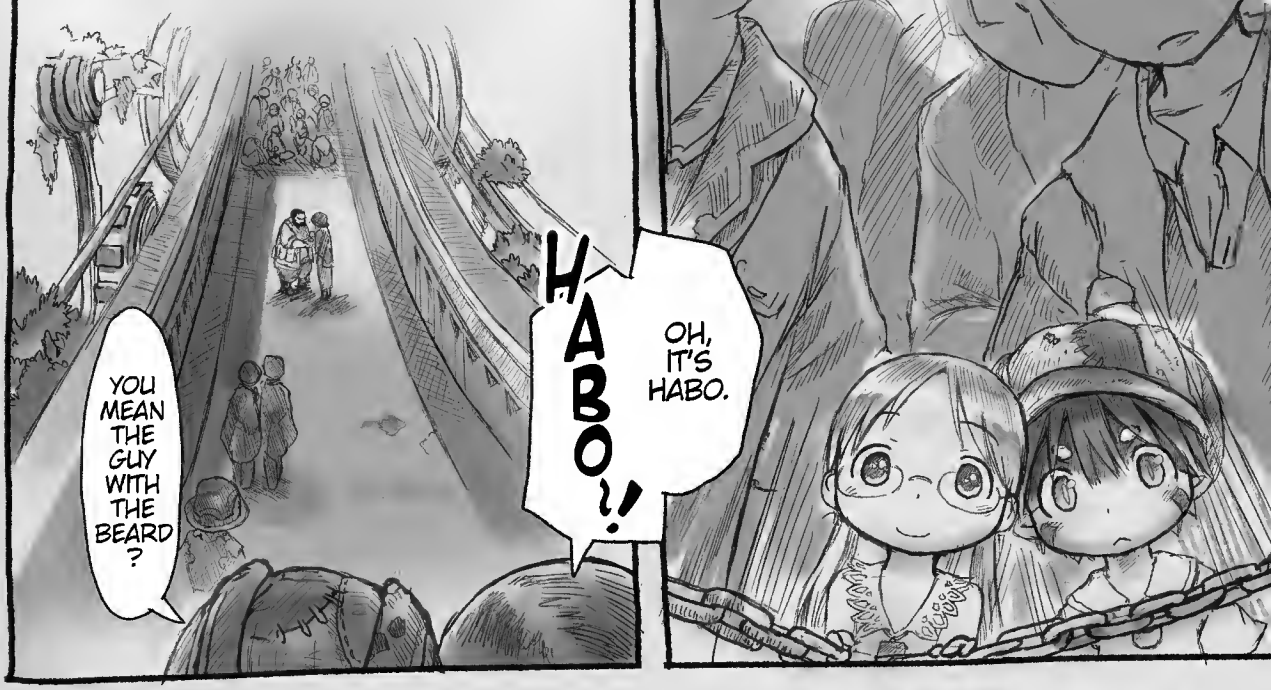
.....
BY THE WAY, REG...
MRR!
HE STIFFENED UP A BIT.
THE DOG I USED TO HAVE!
THAT'S THE NAME OF...
ALTHOUGH, WHEN HE HEARD WHERE IT CAME FROM...
.....
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IN THE EDGE OF THE ABYSS THE OTHER DAY?
DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE INCIDENT ...
HURRY!
HEY! HEY! DON'T YOU THINK THAT WENT WELL?!
NEVER MIND. ANYWAY, COME INSIDE.
WELL ...

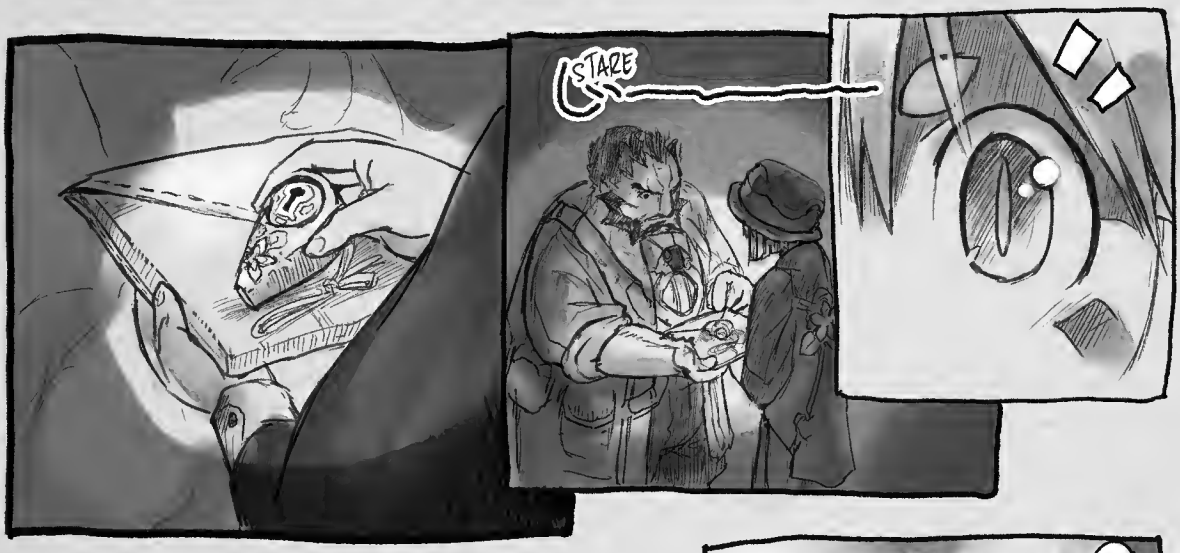
AND SET MY SIGHTS ON BECOMING A CAVE RAIDER.
AND THUS, I BECAME A STUDENT AT BELCHERO ORPHANAGE...
SHOO! SHOO!
SNORE
Z Z Z...
THEIR PASSION, EVIDENCED BY THEIR HARD WORK THAT CONTINUES LATE INTO THE NIGHT...
REALLY TOUCHED ME.
ALTHOUGH YOU MIGHT SAY THEY ROPED ME INTO THIS...
"PLUS, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO EAT 'RIKO BOMBS,' THOSE RICE BALLS YOU LIKE SO MUCH EVERY DAY."
"IT SHOULD ALSO HELP JOG YOUR MEMORY.
"THE WORK YOU'LL BE DOING HERE IS DIRECTLY TIED TO THE FUNDA-MENTALS OF CAVE RAIDING.
SHIGGY TOLD ME...
"DON'T TAKE ABYSS SO LIGHTLY AS TO THINK YOU CAN CHALLENGE IT WITHOUT YOUR MEMORIES!

I SPENT MOST OF MY TIME INSIDE THE ORPHANAGE.
I DID HEAD OUTSIDE EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE THOUGH.
BUT IT SEEMS YOU HAVE TO BE A "BELL" UNTIL YOUR FIRST CAVE RAID.
I THOUGHT THEY WOULD GIVE ME ONE OF THOSE RED WHISTLES...
MORE SO THAN ON THE ABYSS.
CLASSES FOCUSED ON STUFF LIKE READING AND WRITING, OR THE METHODS OF SOUND REASONING...
I WAS ABLE TO DO MANY THINGS NATURALLY. WAS THAT THANKS TO MY PRIOR MEMORIES?
EVEN THOUGH I HAD SUPPOSEDLY FORGOTTEN EVERYTHING...
I LEARNED THAT LEAVES CHANGE COLOR.
AND EVENTUALLY...
THE DAYS WENT BY...
PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS WERE THE ONE THING I AVOIDED.

.....
BEFORE I KNEW IT, TWO MONTHS HAD PASSED.
IT WAS SURPRISING HOW EASILY I BECAME ACCUSTOMED TO IT ALL.
AH!
THERE YOU ARE, REG!
BUT YOU'LL KEEP ON GROWING AND GROWING AND WILL OVERTAKE ME IN NO TIME, KIYUI.
DON'T WORRY. I PROBABLY WON'T BE GETTING ANY BIGGER ...
OH, REALLY?
LUCKY YOU.
IT'S THREE MORE DAYS UNTIL I GO CAVE RAIDING FOR THE FIRST TIME, WHICH ALSO MEANS SAYING GOODBYE TO THIS BELL.
AH, FROM THE SPICE SHOP... HE MUST BE LAFFI'S HUSBAND.
HI THERE!
The scent of spices
THE MAN WHO LIVES TOGETHER WITH AUNTIE!
HABO?
HABO'S SQUAD JUST GOT BACK!
COME ON, HURRY!
THIS'S THEIR TRIUMPHANT RETURN! WE'RE GONNA GO WELCOME THEM AT THE GRAND PIER!
IT'S DANGEROUS AROUND THE PIER, SO YOU STAY BEHIND-- 'KAY, KIYUI?
WHAT ABOUT KIYUI?
I'M GOING TO ASK HIM JUST HOW UPSIDE DOWN IT REALLY WAS!
HABO AND HIS TEAM WENT ALL THE WAY TO THE INVERTED FOREST, YOU KNOW!

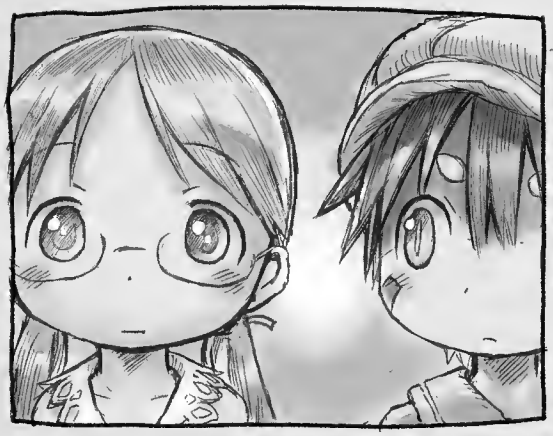
RIKO, UP IN FRONT...
THERE'S SOME SORT OF COMMOTION.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, REG? NEED TO GO TO THE BATHROOM?
?!
THERE'S SOOO MANY PEOPLE...
BUT IT SURE DOES LOOK SKINNY AND UNSTABLE STRETCHED OUT ABOVE THIS HUGE PIT LIKE THAT.
SO THEY USE THIS FOR "TRIUMPHANT RETURNS," HUH? I SUPPOSE IT'S A FINE, RESPECTABLE MECHANICAL PIER...
EXCUSE US! COMING THROUGH!
THEY MIGHT'VE FOUND SOME KIND OF AMAZING RELIC!
WE'VE GOTTA HURRY!


YOU MEAN THE GUY WITH THE BEARD?
HABO~!
OH, IT'S HABO.


STARE

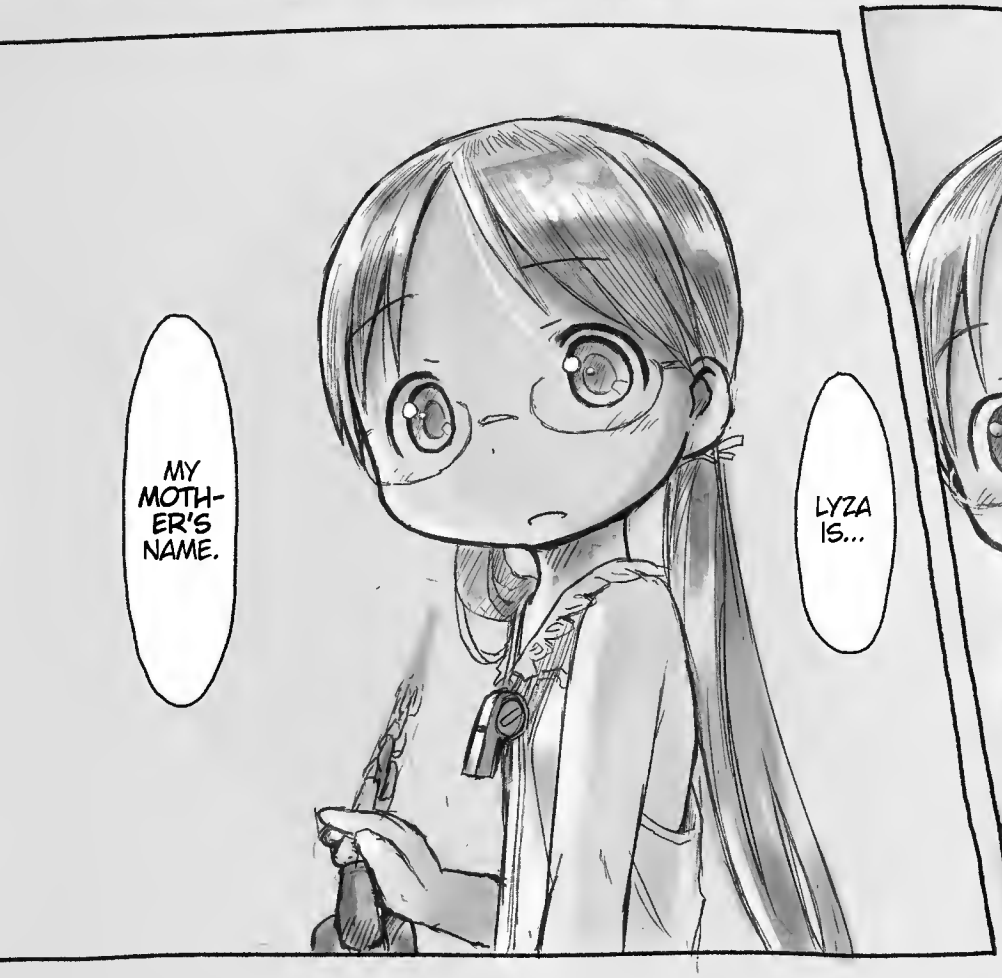
HEY, I FIGURED OUT WHOSE WHISTLE THAT IS!
IT'S LYZA'S!
LYZA THE ANNIHILATOR'S!
FOR REAL?!

A WHITE WHISTLE?!
YEAH, A WHITE WHISTLE.
I THINK IT WAS A WHISTLE.
THE THING HE GAVE TO THE PERSON IN BLACK...



BUT... WHY JUST HER WHISTLE?
WHAT AN UNSETTLING NAME. I WONDER WHAT SHE DID.

YOU'RE BEING UNUSUALLY QUIET.
WHAT'S WRONG, RIKO?


MY MOTHER'S NAME.

LYZA IS...
.....

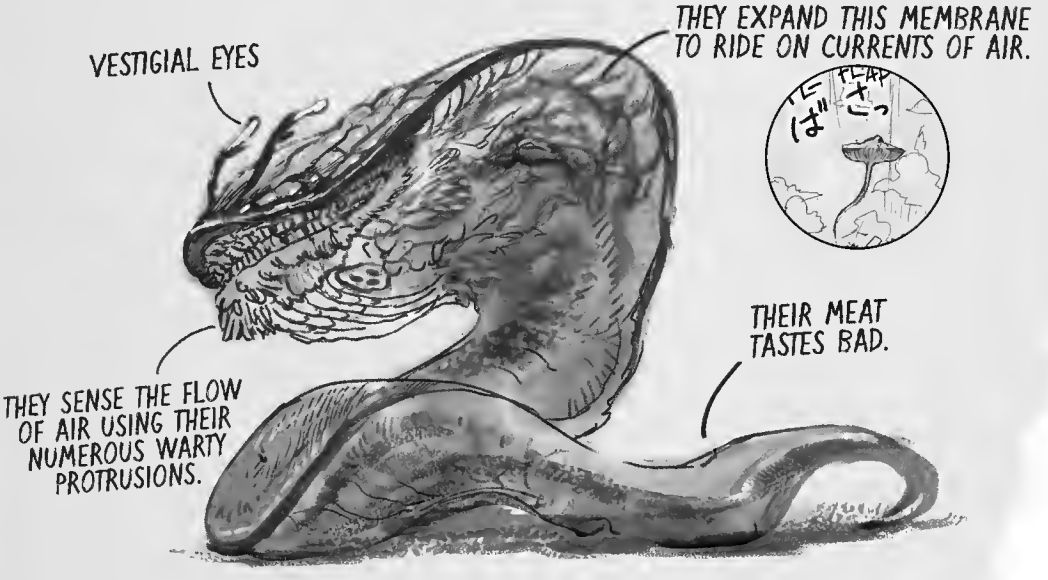
CRIMSON SPLITJAW

●NOTES FROM A CERTAIN CAVE RAIDER●

RED, SNAKE-LIKE CREATURES THAT MAKE THEIR HOMES IN THE STEEP CLIFFS OF THE THIRD LAYER. THEY CAN USE THEIR MEMBRANES TO RIDE CURRENTS OF AIR, WHICH ENABLES THEM TO GLIDE ACROSS THE WIDTH OF THE ABYSS IN A FAIRLY STRAIGHT LINE.

IT'S NOT CLEAR IF THEY DO IT FOR NUTRITION OR TO STRENGTHEN THEIR GIZZARDS, BUT THEY ARE FOND OF CONSUMING RELICS AND ORE DEPOSITS. SURELY, THE NUMEROUS TREASURES THEY HAVE SWALLOWED UP LIE RESTING IN THEIR STOMACHS.

ALTHOUGH, WE CAN'T DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY'VE BEEN DEFECATED SOMEWHERE.



DANGER LEVEL: ★★★★ (DEADLY)

AND IT IS WE, THE CAVE RAIDERS, WHO DARE CHALLENGE IT!

THE WORLD'S ONLY REMAINING UNEXPLORED CHASM, THE GREAT DEVILISH PIT, THE ABYSS!

JAANGLE

JAANGLE

FWUP

FWUP

FWUP

THE EXPERT BLACK WHISTLES!

THE ASSISTANT-INSTRUCTOR MOON WHISTLES ...

THE PROFICIENT BLUE WHISTLES!

THE APPRENTICE RED WHISTLES!

Hello, Abyss 05 Resurrection Festival

THE MASTERS WHO HAVE SURPASSED THEIR HUMAN LIMITATIONS TO CHALLENGE THE ABYSS ...

THOSE WHO STAND ATOP THEM ALL ...

AND FINALLY...

BA-

SWUP

FUA FAAN~!
OUR HEROES ...! THE WHITE WHISTLES!
THEY HAVE BROUGHT US NUMEROUS DISCOVERIES THAT CHANGED THE WORLD!
WHOOOOOOOOOAA!
EVEN IN THE DARKEST DEPTHS, THEY CONTINUE TO SHINE WITH BRILLIANCE!
PU-
EWAA-!
THEY ARE OUR NETHER STARS!

P-PWOOM
PA-PAAAAN
HER LAST DIVE HAS COME TO ITS COMPLETION RIGHT HERE!
SHE WAS THE GREATEST OF THE GREAT. AND NOW, AFTER TEN YEARS, HER SOUL HAS FINALLY RETURNED HOME!
EVEN AMONG THE WHITE WHISTLES ...
THE MANY RECORDS SHE SET STILL STAND TO THIS DAY!
SHE'S TRULY A LEGENDARY CAVE RAIDER!
SO THIS IS A FESTIVAL... THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE...
Get your replicas of the Annihilator's white whistle here!
WHILE THE SHEER NUMBER OF SPECIAL-GRADE RELICS SHE DISCOVERED WAS STAGGERING, IT WAS HER UNDAUNTED COURAGE THAT TRULY STANDS OUT!
SHE SLEW COUNTLESS PERILOUS CREATURES THAT ROSE FROM THE DEPTHS!
TWELVE TIMES FOREIGN CAVE RAIDERS ATTACKED--AND EVERY SINGLE TIME SHE TURNED THE TABLES ON THEM!
NOW! TIME FOR THE BIG GEM PROJECTOR!

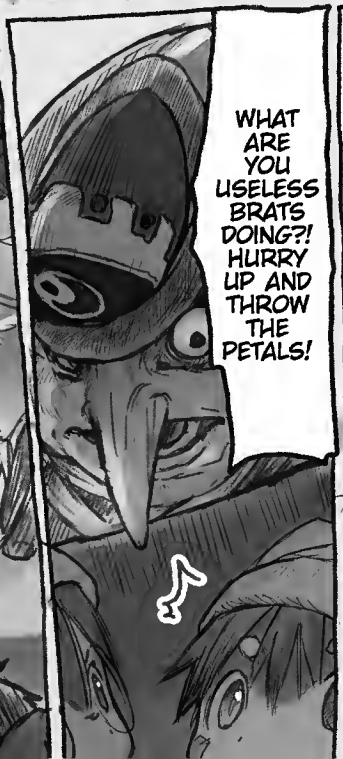
FWASH
Xooo!
PEOPLE CALL HER...
"LYZA THE ANNIHI-LATOR"!
NOW, TO PURCHASE A COPY OF THE ANNIHILATOR'S BIOGRAPHY OR A REPLICA OF HER WHITE WHISTLE, BE SURE TO VISIT BELCHERO ORPHANAGE! PLEASE BEWARE OF UNAUTHORIZED REPRODUCTIONS!
WOOOOW!
AND NOW, AMONG HER MANY DIS-COV-ERIES ...
SCARY ...!

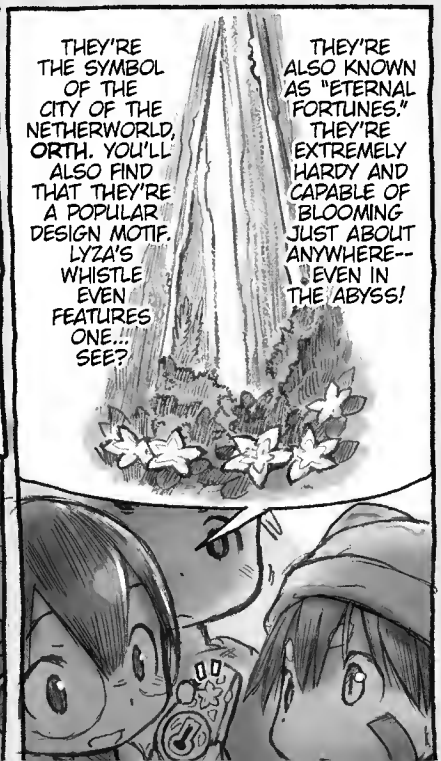
.....
NSAAH
REG, HERE'S SOME MORE PETAL CONFETTI.

TODAY IS BOTH, SO LET'S THROW THEM LIKE CRAZY!
WE SCATTER A WHOLE BUNCH OF 'EM DURING CELEBRATIONS AND FUNERALS.
THESE ARE FLOWERS OF FORTITUDE.

HM? YEAH.
IS THIS FLOWER THE ONE I SEE BLOOMING ALL OVER THE PLACE?
THERE WERE EVEN SOME OUT ON THE TORTURE CHAMBER'S VERANDA. ARE THEY THAT POPULAR?

FAA-!!
PU-
BOW
YAY!
WOOO!


WHAT ARE YOU USELESS BRATS DOING?! HURRY UP AND THROW THE PETALS!


THEY'RE THE SYMBOL OF THE CITY OF THE NETHERWORLD, ORTH. YOU'LL ALSO FIND THAT THEY'RE A POPULAR DESIGN MOTIF. LYZA'S WHISTLE EVEN FEATURES ONE... SEE?
THEY'RE ALSO KNOWN AS "ETERNAL FORTUNES." THEY'RE EXTREMELY HARDY AND CAPABLE OF BLOOMING JUST ABOUT ANYWHERE-- EVEN IN THE ABYSS!

OOOOOOOH!

IS IT... REALLY OKAY FOR ME TO KEEP THIS?

AND THANKS TO THE HIDDEN INSIGNIA EACH OF THEM HAS, YOU CAN'T COUNTERFEIT ONE.
THEY'RE ALL MADE OUT OF RELICS.
NOT ONLY DOES EACH WHITE WHISTLE HAVE ITS OWN UNIQUE DESIGN...

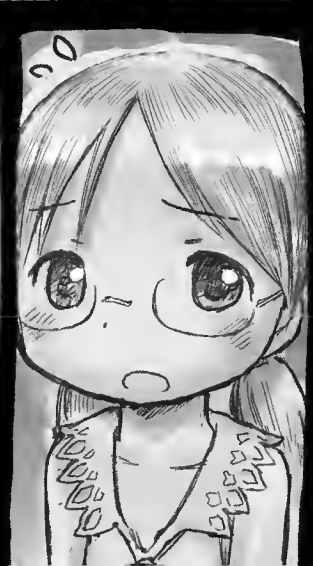
YES, OF COURSE.
BUT... I'M JUST A RED WHISTLE ...
THAT'S ALL RIGHT. UNLIKE OTHER WHISTLES, THAT ONE CAN ONLY BE USED BY ITS ORIGINAL OWNER.

IF THAT'S TOO HEAVY A RESPONSIBILITY TO BEAR, YOU CAN ALWAYS ENTRUST IT TO THE GUILD.

DON'T BE SHY.
IT'S CUSTOMARY FOR A RELATIVE TO BE THE ONE TO RECEIVE A WHITE WHISTLE LIKE THIS. EVERYONE'S FINE WITH THE TRADITION.
ERR ...
ISN'T THERE SOMEONE MORE WORTHY OF IT THAN ME? LIKE A FORMER MEMBER OF MY MOTHER'S SQUAD OR SOMETHING?
UMM... THAT'S NOT REALLY WHAT I MEANT.

I'LL TAKE IT.

I...
きゅっ
SQUEEZE



ARE YOU SAYING IT'S A LETTER?
A SEALED ENVELOPE FROM MY MOTHER...

SO IT MIGHT TAKE SOME TIME TO GET TO YOU, RIKO.

SINCE THE ENVELOPE BELONGED TO A WHITE WHISTLE, IT'S CURRENTLY BEING CLOSELY EXAMINED ...
WE RECEIVED BOTH IT AND THAT WHITE WHISTLE FROM A SENTRY AT A MONITORING BASE CALLED SEEKER CAMP...

LYZA WAS ALSO CARRYING A SEALED ENVELOPE.
BESIDES THAT ...

IT'S SURELY A LETTER ADDRESSED TO YOU, RIKO.

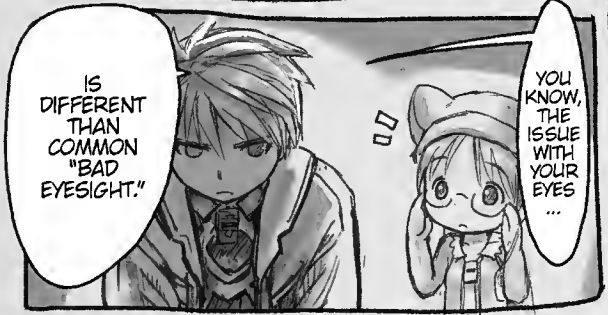
I SUPPOSE IT IS!
HA HA HA HA! I SEE!
HABO ...?

HEY!
JOLT

WHAT ARE YOU DOING SLACKING OFF HERE?
LEADER ...!
TODAY'S RESURRECTION FESTIVAL IS MEANT TO SHOW JUST HOW GREAT YOUR MOTHER WAS.
IT'S A VERY IMPORTANT DAY FOR YOU, TOO.
MAKE SURE TO REALLY TAKE IT IN.
AFTER ALL, LYZA LOVED FESTIVALS. AND IN A WAY, THIS IS HER FINAL ONE.
UM... LEADER...
WHAT KIND OF PERSON WAS MY MOTHER?
DESPITE BEING ONE OF THE WHITE WHISTLES I LOOK UP TO SO MUCH, I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER HER FACE. SO, I'M NOT EXACTLY SAD...
BUT I FEEL LIKE SOMEONE I ASPIRED TO BE JUST SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED ...
THUNK

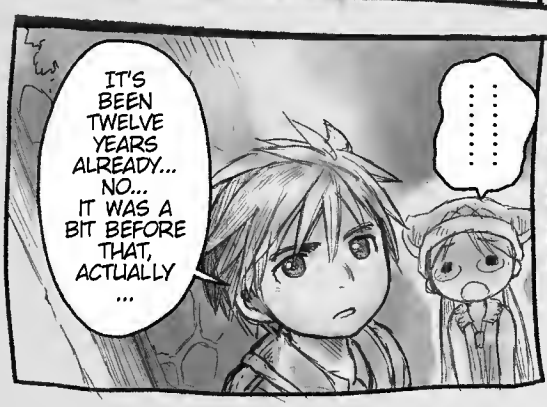
WELL, YOU *WERE* STILL JUST TWO YEARS OLD WHEN LYZA WENT IN TO MAKE HER LAST DIVE.
AS A CAVE RAIDER...
SHE WAS EVERY BIT THE LEGEN-DARY WHITE WHISTLE PEOPLE SAY SHE WAS.
THAT SAID ...
I HARDLY EVEN GOT THE CHANCE TO GO CAVE RAIDING WITH HER.
I ONLY REALLY KNOW LYZA AS SHE WAS ON THE SURFACE ...
ARROGANT AND MISCHIEVOUS.
SHE WAS A HEAVY DRINKER AND QUICK TO GET INTO FIGHTS. SHE WOULD TAKE HER PRANKS TOO FAR AND YOU COULD NEVER TELL HOW HONEST SHE WAS BEING. ON TOP OF THAT, SHE HAD A HORRIBLY UNBALANCED DIET.
IF SHE WASN'T A WHITE WHISTLE, SHE WOULD'VE BEEN JUST ANOTHER WEIRDO.
.....
REAL-LY...
SHE WAS A TOTAL MESS.

HOW ARE YOUR EYES DOING, RIKO?
HUH ?
WHAT MAKES YOU ASK ALL OF A SUD-DEN?
UH, THEY'RE FINE. I DON'T GET HEADACHES AS LONG AS I'M WEARING MY GLASSES.


YOU KNOW, THE ISSUE WITH YOUR EYES ...
IS DIFFERENT THAN COMMON "BAD EYESIGHT."

THEY ARISE DUE TO THE STRAIN OF AS-CENDING FROM A DEEP LAYER.
IN OTHER WORDS, THEY'RE BECAUSE OF THE CURSE OF THE ABYSS.

YOUR VISION ITSELF IS FINE--NOT A THING WRONG WITH IT...
BUT YOU SUFFER HEADACHES UNLESS YOU VIEW EVERYTHING THROUGH CRYSTAL LENSES.
THE SYMP-TOMS MAY BE MYSTERI-OUS, BUT THEIR CAUSE IS QUITE CLEAR...


.....
IT'S BEEN TWELVE YEARS ALREADY... NO... IT WAS A BIT BEFORE THAT, ACTUALLY ...

HUH?
WHAT ?!
THAT WAS NON-SENSE WE MADE UP TO KEEP YOU IN LINE.
MY BAD EYESIGHT ISN'T FROM ALWAYS STAYING UP LATE?

LYZA HAD JUST BECOME PREGNANT WITH YOU...

BUT DESPITE HER PHYSICAL STATE, SHE HAD TO GO DOWN TO THE FOURTH LAYER WITH A SURVEY TEAM.

HUH? BUT WHY ...?

IT WAS A SPECIAL MISSION ORDERED BY THE COUNTRY'S POWERS THAT BE. AS A WHITE WHISTLE, SHE HAD NO CHOICE.

SHE WAS TO RETRIEVE THE **UNHEARD BELL**, A SPECIAL-GRADE RELIC THAT HAD BEEN DISCOVERED IN THE DEPTHS.

HER TEAM'S CAVE RAIDING PROVED ARDUOUS AND STRETCHED ON FOR TEN MONTHS.

THEY HAD REPEATED RUN-INS WITH CAVE RAIDERS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES ...

AND THE SURVEY TEAM WAS NEARLY WIPED OUT. IT WAS AT THAT TIME YOUR FATHER, A BLACK WHISTLE NAMED **TORKA**, LOST HIS LIFE.

AND IN THE MIDST OF IT ALL, YOU WERE BORN.

HUH?

HM?

WHAT...? SO, YOU'RE SAYING...

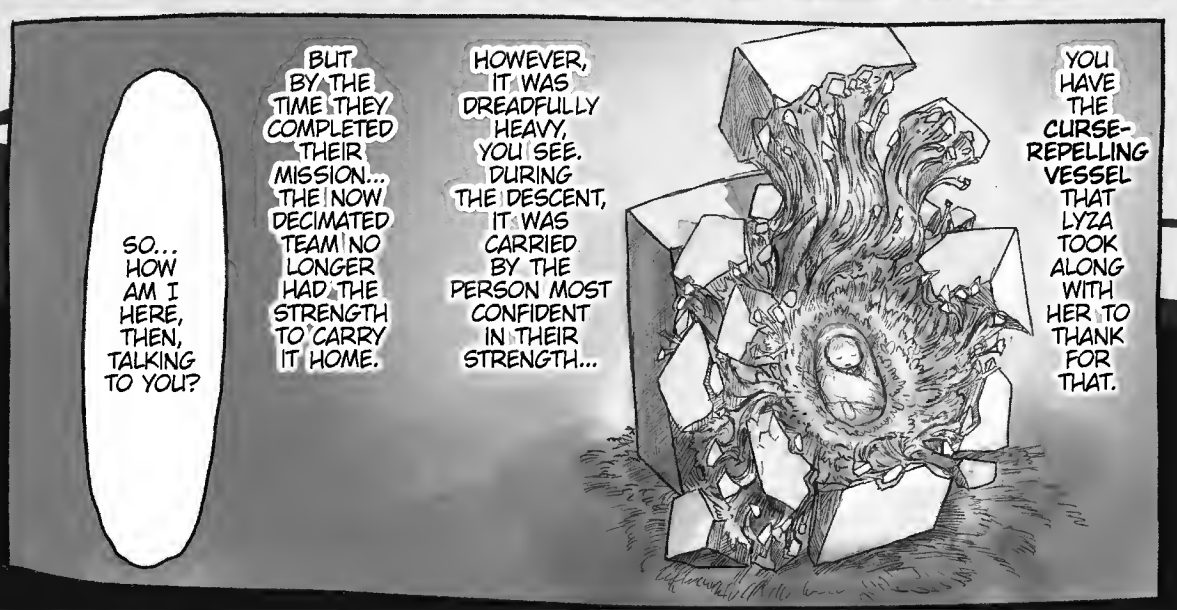
THAT'S RIGHT.

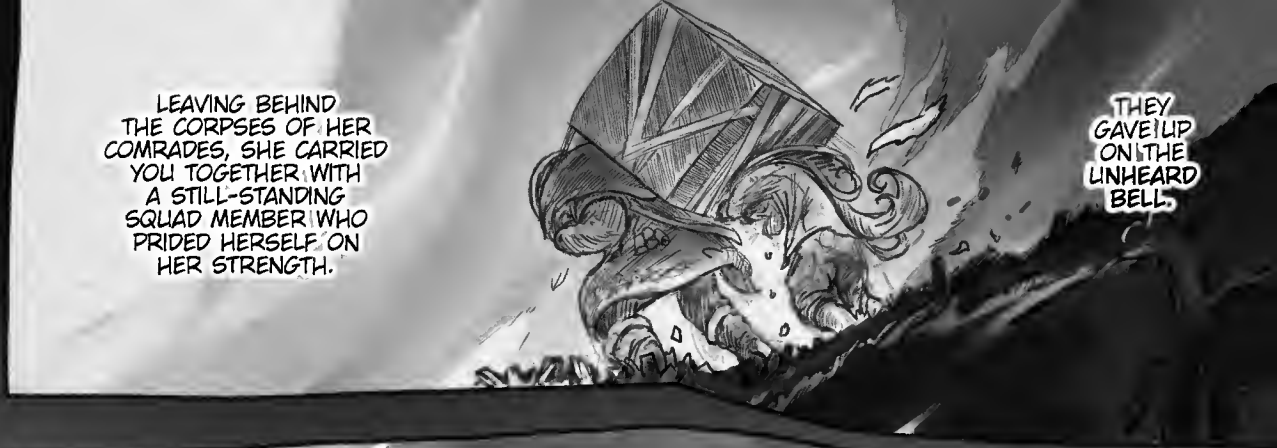
YOU WERE BORN... IN THE **DEPTHS** OF THE ABYSS.

WELL... UM, DOES THAT MEAN THE CURSE OF THE ABYSS DOESN'T AFFECT ME AS MUCH AS OTHER PEOPLE?
WHOMP
OF COURSE NOT!
DID YOU FORGET ABOUT HOW MUCH YOU WERE WRITHING AROUND IN PAIN YOUR FIRST TIME CAVE RAIDING?!
I-I'M OKA--
BLAAAAAAARF...
AWW...

SO... HOW AM I STILL ALIVE, THEN?
HUH?
UH...

THE STRAIN OF ASCENDING FROM THE FOURTH LAYER ISN'T SOMETHING AN ADULT, MUCH LESS A BABY, CAN READILY WITH-STAND.
PAIN THAT RAVAGES YOUR WHOLE BODY, BLEEDING ...
IN FACT, THAT WAS AN INDIRECT CAUSE OF YOUR FATHER'S DEATH.


SO... HOW AM I HERE, THEN, TALKING TO YOU?
BUT BY THE TIME THEY COMPLETED THEIR MISSION... THE NOW DECIMATED TEAM NO LONGER HAD THE STRENGTH TO CARRY IT HOME.
HOWEVER, IT WAS DREADFULLY HEAVY, YOU SEE. DURING THE DESCENT, IT WAS CARRIED BY THE PERSON MOST CONFIDENT IN THEIR STRENGTH...
YOU HAVE THE CURSE-REPELLING VESSEL THAT LYZA TOOK ALONG WITH HER TO THANK FOR THAT.


LEAVING BEHIND THE CORPSES OF HER COMRADES, SHE CARRIED YOU TOGETHER WITH A STILL-STANDING SQUAD MEMBER WHO PRIDED HERSELF ON HER STRENGTH.
THEY GAVE UP ON THE UNHEARD BELL.

SHE WAS FACED WITH HAVING TO MAKE AN INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT DECISION.
YOU SEE, SPECIAL-GRADE RELICS ARE CAPABLE OF CHANGING THE BALANCE OF POWER BETWEEN COUNTRIES. BRINGING JUST A SINGLE ONE HOME IS ENOUGH TO ENRICH THE CITY AND ENSURE A SQUAD'S FUTURE.
NOW, DON'T MAKE THE MISTAKE OF THINKING SHE WAS ONLY DOING WHAT ANY MOTHER WOULD DO.

PRESTIGE AND RICHES, HER COMRADES AND THEIR TRUST...
AND YET, LYZA CHOSE YOU.
SHE WAS WILLING TO GIVE UP ALL OF THAT.
YOU WERE SO IMPORTANT TO HER THAT...

LYZA LAMENTED THAT SHE WAS UNABLE TO PROTECT YOUR EYES...
IT MAY BE CALLED A CURSE-REPELLING RELIC, BUT THE TRUTH IS, IT'S SIMPLY NOT POSSIBLE TO REMAIN COMPLETELY UNTOUCHED BY THE CURSE OF THE ABYSS.
YOUR EYES WERE AFFECTED DUE TO THE STRAIN OF ASCENDING THOUGH.
SHFF
.....
AND THUS, THE ONE SHE RISKED HER LIFE TO PROTECT IS STILL GOING STRONG TO THIS DAY.
YOU'RE TRYING TO CHOOSE YOUR OWN PATH.
AND NOW, IN THE FACE OF THE PRESSURE OF HAVING A MOTHER OF SUCH STATURE ...
BUT DESPITE HER WORRIES, YOU GREW UP REALLY HEALTHY.
SNIFFLE
TUG
DO YOU INTEND TO SPEND IT JUST PUTTERING AROUND HERE?
HOW WILL YOU USE IT?
THIS TREASURE THAT THE LEGENDARY WHITE WHISTLE, LYZA THE ANNIHILATOR, LEFT YOU WITH...
WELL, THEN ...
FWUP
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

LYZA SETTLED THE SCORE WITH THE GROUP FROM THE FOREIGN COUNTRY THAT HAD CAUSED HER TROUBLE, AND THEN LATER RECOVERED THE BELL...
ALTHOUGH SHORTLY THEREAFTER...
I GUESS SOME THINGS ARE BETTER LEFT UNSAID.
BUT...
I'LL BE A WHITE WHISTLE IN NO TIME~!
I'M GOIN' DOWN THERE, ABYSS~!
ABYSS, I'M COMIN' FOR YA!
PHWEE FA-PHWEE~!

YOU GOT A MESSAGE FROM THE CAVE RAIDER GUILD HEAD-QUARTERS.
HMPH.
H-HERE!

RIKO! WHERE ARE YOU?!
RIKO...
PHWEE~!

THEY'VE GIVEN YOU PERMISSION TO GO VIEW THE CONTENTS OF THE ENVELOPE.
HURRY AND REPORT TO HQ BY 18:00!

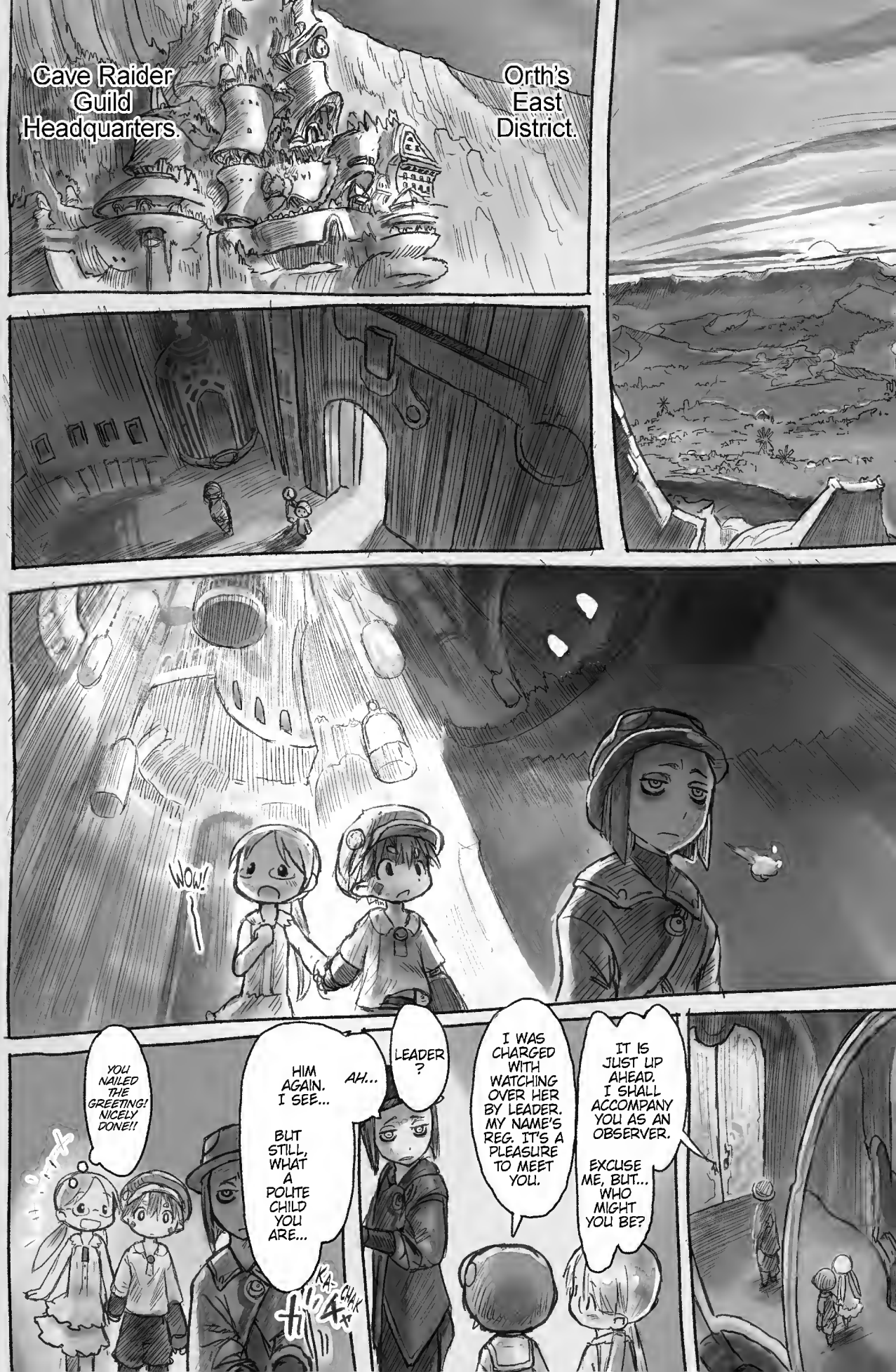
ACK?!
KLATTER
CRAASH

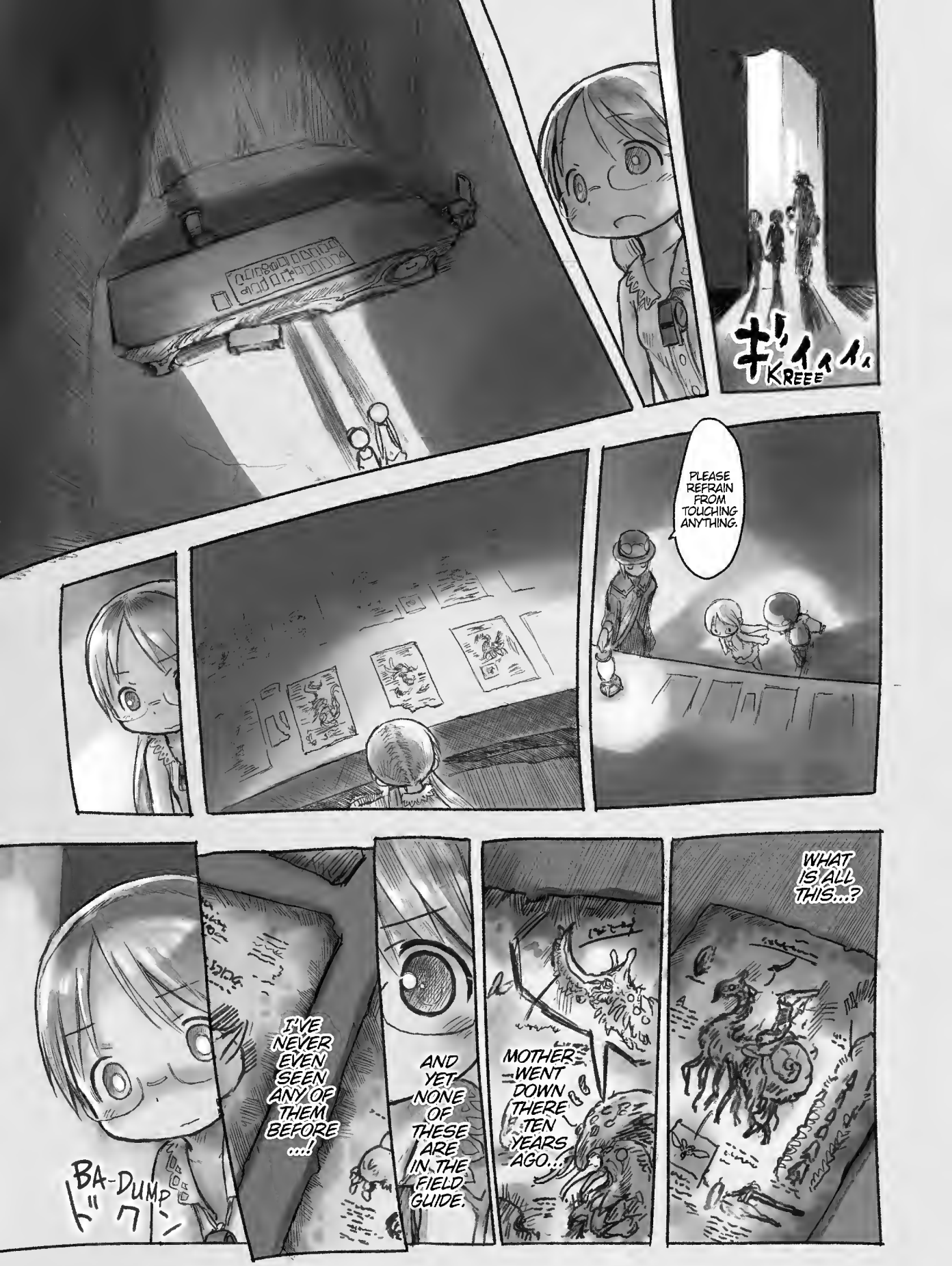
I'M GOING NOW!
だっDASH
だっDASH

Y-YESH!
AND YOUR REPLY...?

ROGER!

SHE MIGHT GET SHAKY, AND I CAN'T STAND WATCHING THAT.
GO WITH HER.
REG!
!


Cave Raider Guild Headquarters.
Orth's East District.
WOW!
YOU NAILED THE GREETING! NICELY DONE!!
HIM AGAIN. I SEE...
AH...
BUT STILL, WHAT A POLITE CHILD YOU ARE...
LEADER ?
I WAS CHARGED WITH WATCHING OVER HER BY LEADER. MY NAME'S REG. IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.
IT IS JUST UP AHEAD. I SHALL ACCOMPANY YOU AS AN OBSERVER.
EXCUSE ME, BUT... WHO MIGHT YOU BE?
KA-
CHAK

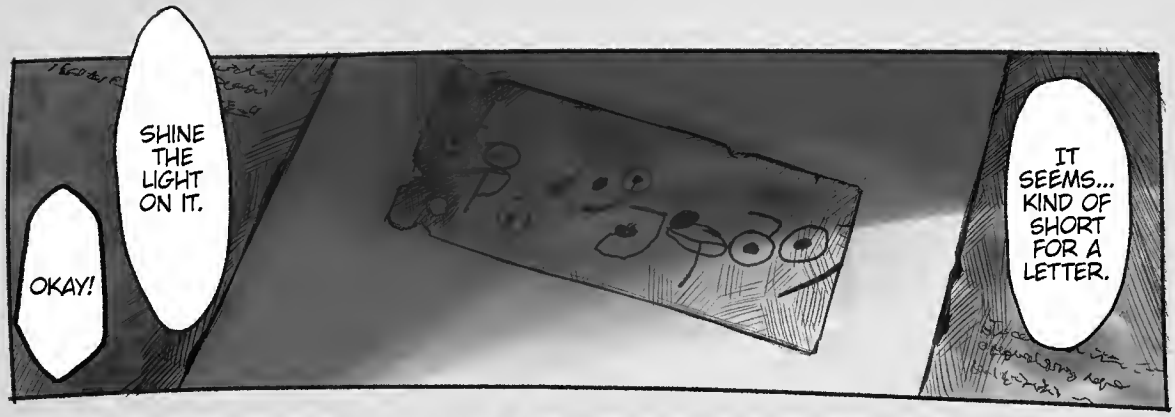

キィィィィ
KREEE
PLEASE REFRAIN FROM TOUCHING ANYTHING.
BA-DUMP
ドクン
I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN ANY OF THEM BEFORE ...!
AND YET NONE OF THESE ARE IN THE FIELD GUIDE.
MOTHER WENT DOWN THERE TEN YEARS AGO...
WHAT IS ALL THIS...?

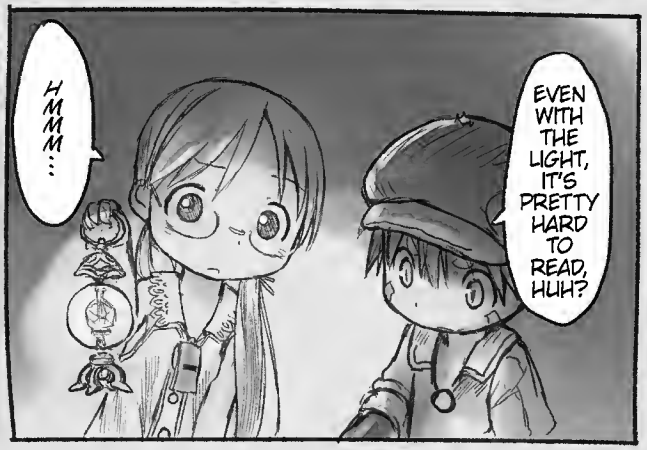
?

WHAT'S WRONG, RIKO? IS IT THE LETTER?

RIKO, BESIDE IT-- THERE'S A PIECE OF PAPER WITH ONLY WRITING ON IT.

THAT LOOKS LIKE...!
WHISPER
YEAH, SOME PARTS ARE DIFFERENT HERE AND THERE, BUT THIS IS...





"I'LL BE WAITING."

"AT THE NETHER-WORLD'S BOTTOM ...

"THE FLOWER OF FORTITUDE"

ETERNAL FORTUNE

THIS PLANT TAKES ROOT IN ANY ENVIRONMENT.
A FAST-GROWING SPECIES, IT BLOOMS--
AND SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASES ITS SEEDS--
ALL THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

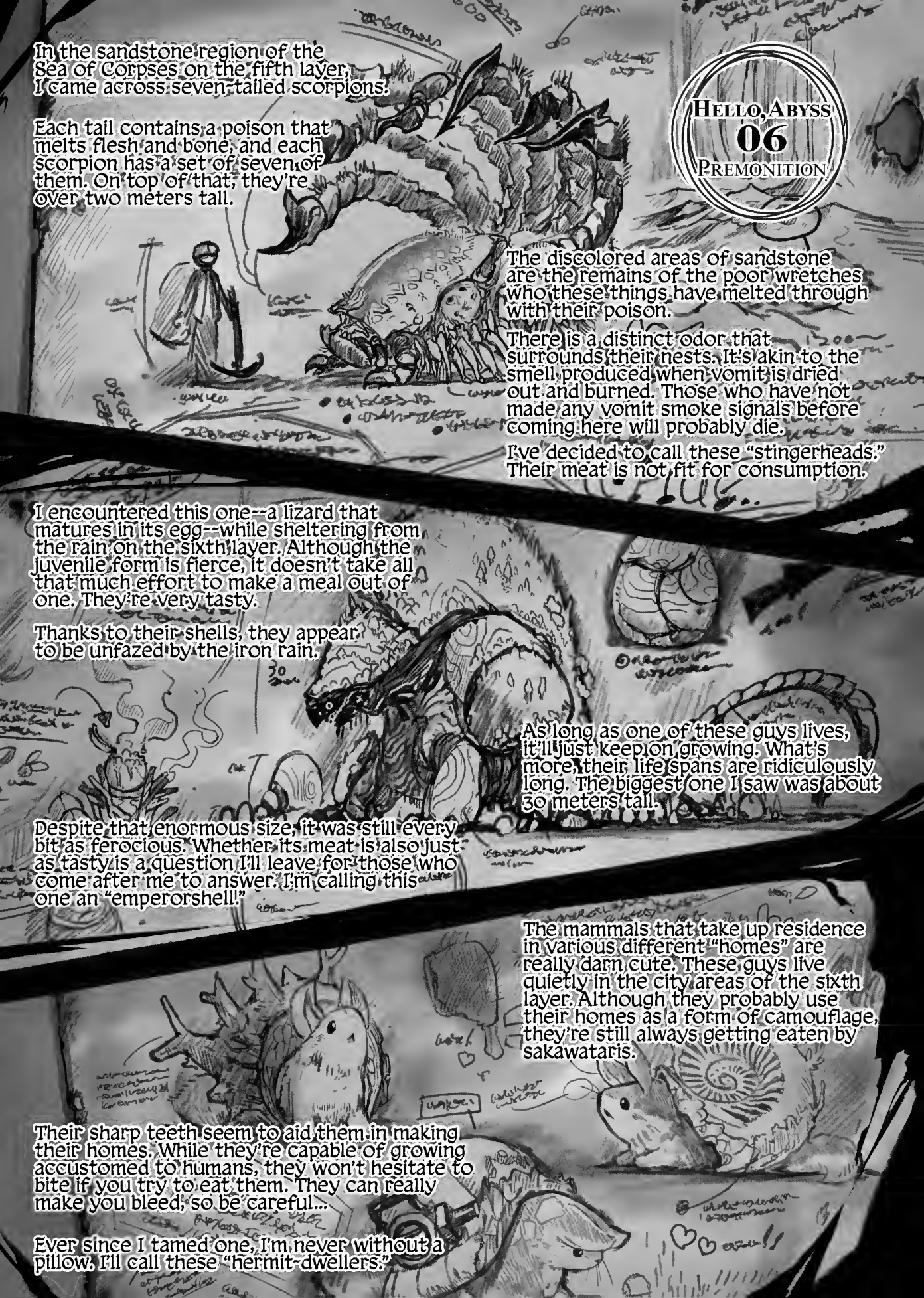
THEY TEND TO PRODUCE LARGER, WHITER FLOWERS THE COLDER THE REGION THEY GROW IN IS. IT HAS BEEN DESIGNATED THE "OFFICIAL CITY FLOWER" OF ORTH DUE TO THE GOOD LUCK INHERENT WITH THIS FORTITUDE.

CULTIVATED ALL AROUND THE CITY, THE FLOWER HAS BECOME PART OF THE LOCAL SCENERY.

IN ORTH, IT IS CUSTOMARY TO SHOWER THE ABYSS WITH THESE FLOWERS DURING CELEBRATIONS AND OCCASIONS OF MOURNING.

THE PLANT IS A COMMON SIGHT EVEN IN THE ABYSS.
SINCE ITS ROOTS AND SEEDS CAN EASILY BE OBTAINED THERE, THEY MAKE FOR HANDY COOKING INGREDIENTS AND SEASONINGS.

ETERNAL FORTUNES DON'T FAVOR ANY PARTICULAR PLACE TO BLOOM.


Hello, Abyss
06
Premonition
In the sandstone region of the Sea of Corpses on the fifth layer, I came across seven-tailed scorpions.
Each tail contains a poison that melts flesh and bone, and each scorpion has a set of seven of them. On top of that, they're over two meters tall.
The discolored areas of sandstone are the remains of the poor wretches who these things have melted through with their poison.
There is a distinct odor that surrounds their nests. It's akin to the smell produced when vomit is dried out and burned. Those who have not made any vomit smoke signals before coming here will probably die.
I've decided to call these "stingerheads." Their meat is not fit for consumption.
I encountered this one--a lizard that matures in its egg--while sheltering from the rain on the sixth layer. Although the juvenile form is fierce, it doesn't take all that much effort to make a meal out of one. They're very tasty.
Thanks to their shells, they appear to be unfazed by the iron rain.
As long as one of these guys lives, it'll just keep on growing. What's more, their life spans are ridiculously long. The biggest one I saw was about 30 meters tall.
Despite that enormous size, it was still every bit as ferocious. Whether its meat is also just as tasty is a question I'll leave for those who come after me to answer. I'm calling this one an "emperorshell."
The mammals that take up residence in various different "homes" are really darn cute. These guys live quietly in the city areas of the sixth layer. Although they probably use their homes as a form of camouflage, they're still always getting eaten by sakawataris.
Their sharp teeth seem to aid them in making their homes. While they're capable of growing accustomed to humans, they won't hesitate to bite if you try to eat them. They can really make you bleed, so be careful...
Ever since I tamed one, I'm never without a pillow. I'll call these "hermit-dwellers."

HUMAN-LIKE SILHOUETTE, IDENTITY UNKNOWN...
I encountered it while approaching the seventh layer.
For a little while now, it has been intently observing me. Damn idiot-- I'm watching you too, you know.
DWOOO
It's about the size of a human child and looks to be dressed in rags.
Its limbs and head seem too large for its body. Some kind of armor, perhaps? It didn't give off the impression of being a "Hollow," however...
when I tried calling out to it, it ran away. It went up, jumping, with a strength that astonished me.
To leap so effortlessly at this depth... maybe it's not human...?
REG!
REG!
I do not know... But I'm getting closer to the answer.

WHOOPS...
ALL YOU'RE GONNA FIND ARE BUGS, OKAY?

HERE?
IF YOU'RE SET ON DIGGING, TRY THAT FLAT SPOT NEXT TO YOU.

.....
WHAT IS IT?
THERE'S NO POINT IN DIGGING UP THE GRASS LIKE THAT.

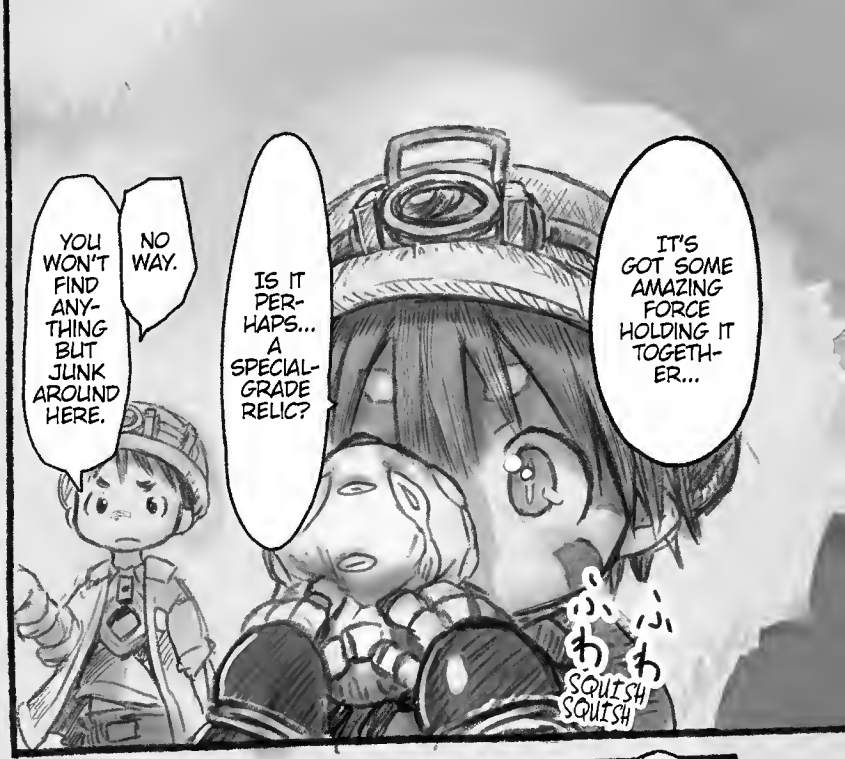
ザッ!ボキッ
SURRUP

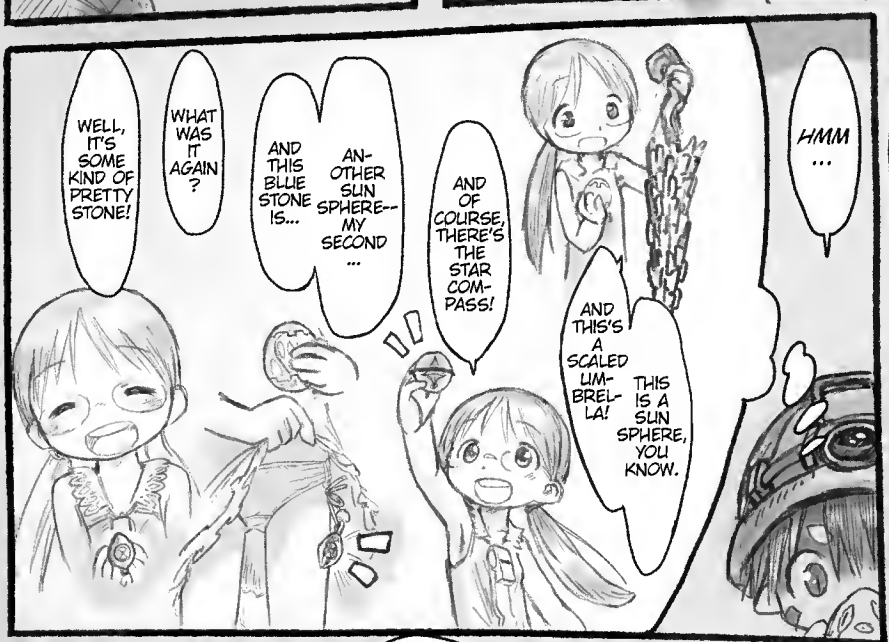
NNGH. IT'S HEAVY...
NOT LIKE THAT. USE YOUR PICKAX TO DIG. YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO DIG IT UP WITH YOUR HA--

ROCK TOP
SPIN.
IT CHANGES SHAPE AND FLOATS.
THAT THING'S ALSO A RELIC OF THE ABYSS.
COULD BE A ROCK TOP...? NAH, THEY AREN'T THAT SOFT... DUNNO WHAT IT IS.
AH, UH...
IT'S ROUND AND... SQUISHY!
WHAT IS THIS THING?!
NAT!

WH-WHAT?
HUH?

THEY'LL STRING UP YOU NAKED FOR THAT, YOU KNOW.
WAIT A MINUTE... IF IT'S JUNK, DOES THAT MEAN IT'S OKAY IF I KEEP IT?
CALLING THIS JUNK IS SIMPLY IRRE-DEEM-ABLE...


YOU WON'T FIND ANY-THING BUT JUNK AROUND HERE.
NO WAY.
IS IT PER-HAPS... A SPECIAL-GRADE RELIC?
IT'S GOT SOME AMAZING FORCE HOLDING IT TOGETH-ER...
ふわ ふわ
SQUISH SQUISH


WELL, IT'S SOME KIND OF PRETTY STONE!
WHAT WAS IT AGAIN?
AND THIS BLUE STONE IS...
AN-OTHER SUN SPHERE--MY SECOND...
AND OF COURSE, THERE'S THE STAR COM-PASS!
AND THIS'S A SCALED UM-BREL-LA!
THIS IS A SUN SPHERE, YOU KNOW.
HMM...

BEING AN APPREN-TICE SURE IS TOUGH, HUH?
EVEN JUNK SELLS FOR GOOD MONEY OVER IN FOREIGN COUN-TRIES.

YOU JUST LEAVE IT TO ME!
RIGHT?!
THERE'S NO END TO THESE SQUISHY THINGS IN HERE!
NAT! THIS'S AMAZ-ING!
キラ TWING
キラ TWING
ふわ ふわ
SQUISH SQUISH

LOOK.
WHOA!
THERE'S SOME-THING ELSE BACK THERE.
ガサ RUSTLE

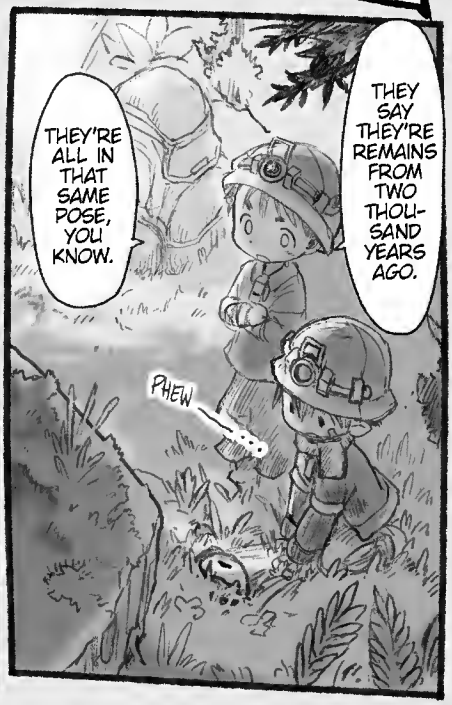
RUSTLE
!

AH!
THAT'S ...!
THERE'S STILL MORE!
もそ BRUSH
もそ BRUSH

WHAT?! WHAT'S THAT?!
IT'S A "PRAYING SKELETON"... DIDN'T YOU SEE THEM IN THE TEXT-BOOKS?
GET OFF ME...

URPH!
ドムッ
GLOMP
AAH!!

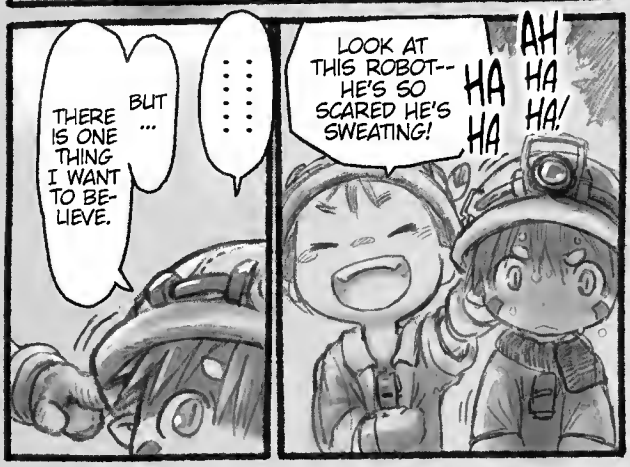
WANT ME TO KEEP QUIET ABOUT THIS?
HM?
YOU WERE HUGGING ME LIKE A GIRL.
ANYWAY, YOU'RE SURE FREAKED OUT FOR A ROBOT.


THEY SAY THEY'RE REMAINS FROM TWO THOU-SAND YEARS AGO.
THEY'RE ALL IN THAT SAME POSE, YOU KNOW.
PHEW

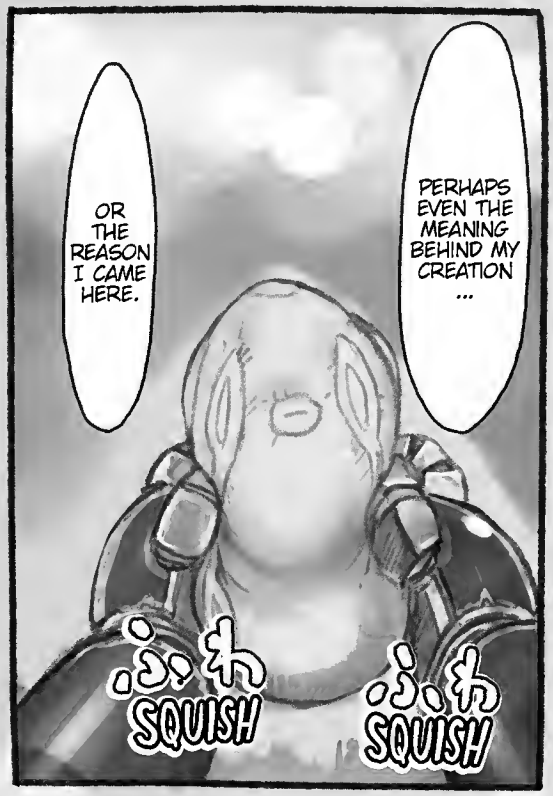
WHICH RE-MINDS ME...
YOU EVER HEAR THIS STORY BEFORE?

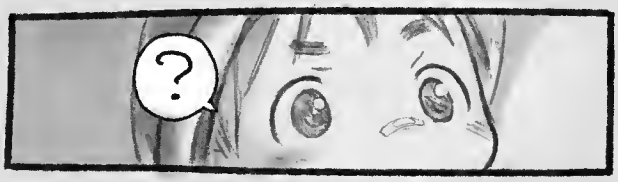
SMIRK にや
SMIRK にや

I DON'T BELIEVE IN THAT KINDA STUFF!
RUMOR IS, IF YOU LOOK INTO A MIRROR ON THE MORNING OF YOUR BIRTHDAY...
YOUR REFLECTION WILL HAVE A TWISTED NECK. AND ONCE YOU SEE IT...!


.....
BUT ...
THERE IS ONE THING I WANT TO BELIEVE.
LOOK AT THIS ROBOT-- HE'S SO SCARED HE'S SWEATING!
HA HA
AH HA HA!

CHILDREN WHO'VE BEEN EAGERLY AWAITING THEIR BIRTHDAYS HAVE BEEN DYING ONE AFTER THE OTHER WHEN THAT DAY ARRIVES. THE CAUSES FOR THEIR DEATHS VARY...
BUT ALL OF THEM INVARIABLY PERISH ON THEIR BIRTHDAYS. IN THE WEST DISTRICT ALONE, THE COUNT IS ALREADY UP TO EIGHT KIDS.
NO, IT MIGHT BE MORE THAN THAT...


PERHAPS EVEN THE MEANING BEHIND MY CREATION ...
OR THE REASON I CAME HERE.
SQUISH
SQUISH


?

THAT "ANSWERS LIE WAITING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE NETHER-WORLD."
THE TRUE NATURE OF THESE RELICS...
AND THE CAUSE OF THE CURSE OF THE ABYSS.

MAYBE ALL THOSE ANSWERS ...

ARE WAITING FOR ME IF I CAN JUST REACH THE BOTTOM OF THE ABYSS.

THAT'S THE FEELING I GET, ANYWAY.

WHA ...

WHAT'S WITH YOU?

YOU AND RIKO... THE BOTH OF YOU ARE CRAZY!

LIKE I SAID YESTERDAY, I'M AGAINST YOU GOING, OKAY?!

I MEAN, YOU'RE BOTH RED WHISTLES ...

AND SHE'S STILL ONLY TWELVE YEARS OLD!

NAT, YOU...

HURRY AND PACK THOSE UP! WE'RE GOING!

A-ANYWAY, I'M AGAINST IT!

HMM.

—The Previous Night—
HEY, NOW... ARE YOU SERI-OUS?
THAT'S WHY I WANT YOUR HELP!
YEP.
MY MOM'S WAITING FOR ME.
SO... WHAT MADE YOU STEAL THIS NOTE THAT SAYS, "AT THE NETHER-WORLD'S BOTTOM, I'LL BE WAITING"?
WELL, 'CAUSE MY MOTHER WROTE THAT LETTER TO ME... IT'S MINE!
SO, WHAT'S YOUR PLAN AFTER YOU GET TO THE SEEKER CAMP?
I'LL HEAD FOR THE BOTTOM OF THE ABYSS, WHERE MY MOM IS WAITING!

THE BOTTOM OF THE ABYSS... YOU TALK ABOUT IT LIKE IT'S NO BIG DEAL...
I'M AGAINST IT!
WHAT'S THE MAT-TER, NAT?
!
MO-
FLUFF
THE ROUTE FROM THERE IS...
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SEE ANY OF US UP HERE EVER AGAIN, YOU KNOW!
FLUFF
OF COURSE I'M PREPARED FOR THAT!
WHAT'S THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN?! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A WHITE WHISTLE!
NO, YOU DON'T GET IT, RIKO!
BUT IF YOU GO THERE, YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO COME BACK!
LIKE I SAID ...!
NNGH...
THAT'S RIGHT!
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO HANG OUT AT AUNTIE'S ...
OR PLAY WITH ANY OF US HERE AGAIN!
HAVE LEADER TEACH YOU STUFF...

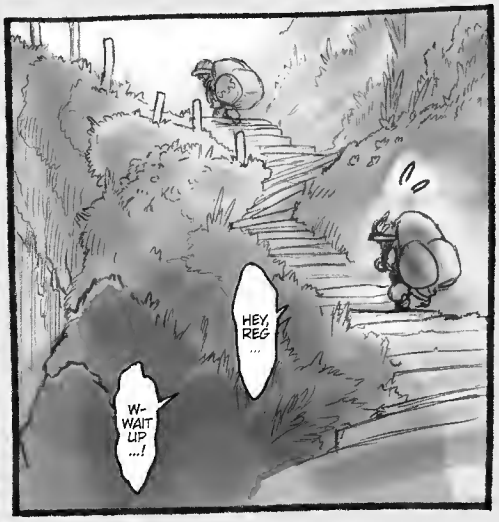
WELL, IT'S ALREADY LATE TONIGHT. LET'S GET SOME SLEEP.
TO-MORROW IS REG'S FIRST CAVE RAID AND ALL.
びぇぇぇぇぇぇ
BIWAAAAAAH
STRUGGLE
モタ
STRUGGLE
モタ
I KNOW THAT, OKAY?!
LIKE I SAID ...!
ひぐ
SNIFFLE
HEY, YOU'RE CRY-ING, TOO!
WH-WHY ARE YOU CRYING ?!
I'LL GET SOME INFO READY BY THEN.
WAAAH!
LET'S MEET AGAIN TOMORROW NIGHT.
WHO KNOWS HOW THIS WILL TURN OUT.
WELL, NOW...

MY MEMORY STILL HASN'T RETURNED.
EVEN AFTER MY FIRST CAVE RAID...

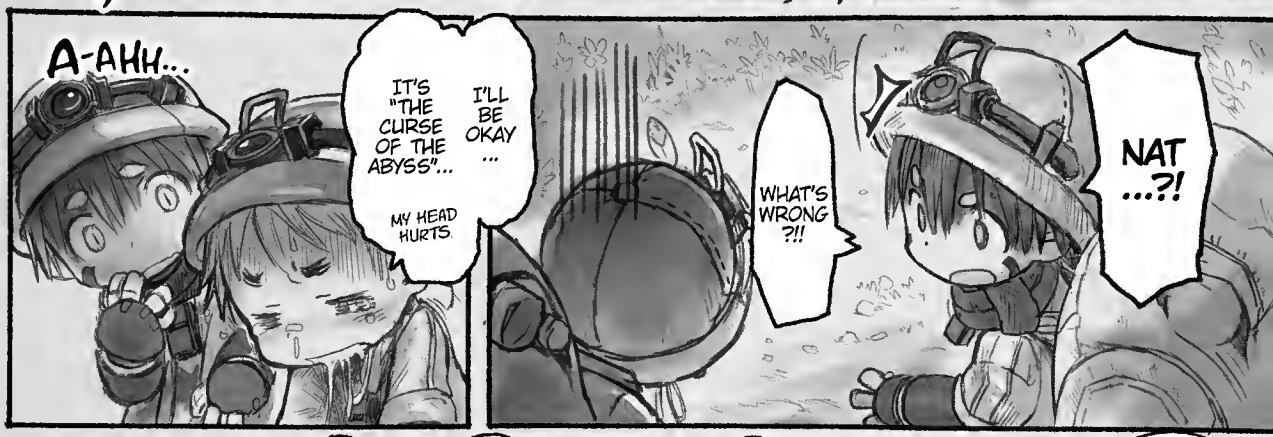
Hello, Abyss
07
Eve of Departure

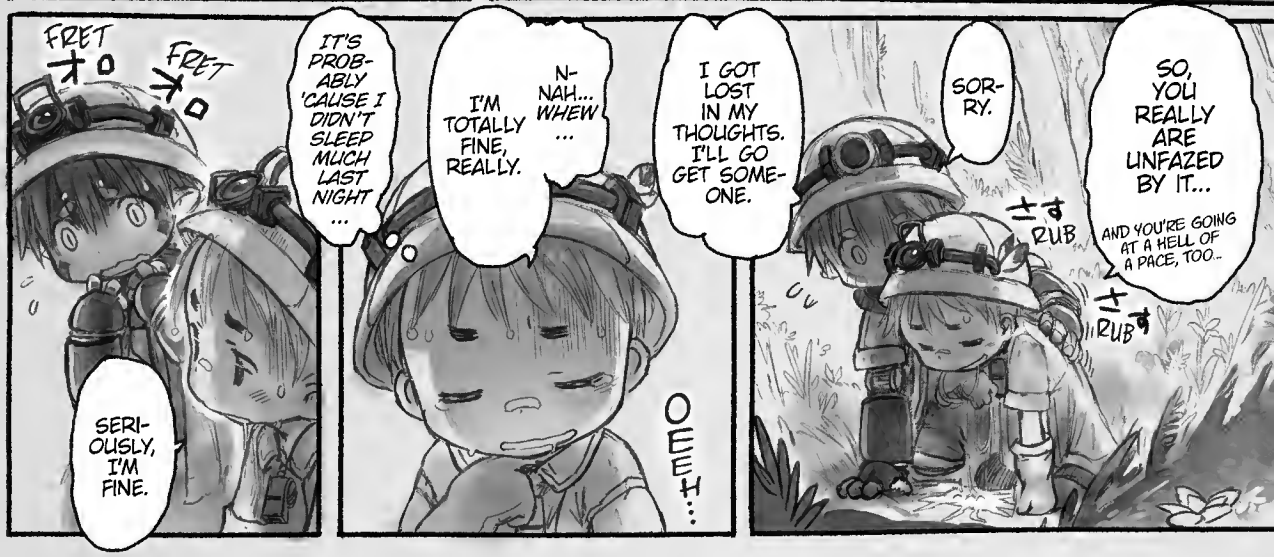
.....
UMM...

HEY!
THE KEY INDEED MUST BE--
WHICH MEANS...


W-WAIT UP...!
HEY, REG...

RIKO DIDN'T ASK ME TO GO WITH HER...
SHE'S NOT PLANNING TO JUST TAKE OFF AND LEAVE, IS SHE...?
OELOOOOORF
おえろろろろろ


NAT ...?!
WHAT'S WRONG ?!!
I'LL BE OKAY ...
IT'S "THE CURSE OF THE ABYSS"...
MY HEAD HURTS.
A-AHH...


SORRY.
さす RUB
さす RUB
SO, YOU REALLY ARE UNFAZED BY IT...
AND YOU'RE GOING AT A HELL OF A PACE, TOO...
I GOT LOST IN MY THOUGHTS. I'LL GO GET SOMEONE.
N-NAH... WHEW ...
I'M TOTALLY FINE, REALLY.
OEEEH...
IT'S PROBABLY 'CAUSE I DIDN'T SLEEP MUCH LAST NIGHT ...
FRET
FRET
SERIOUSLY, I'M FINE.

SURE. THE APPRAISAL WON'T TAKE LONG, SO JUST WAIT HERE.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
REG AND I ARE FROM BELCHERO ORPHANAGE.
THIS YOUR FIRST TIME? RED WHIS-TLES, HUH? FROM WHERE?
IN THAT CASE, WRITE YOUR NAME DOWN RIGHT--NO, NOT THERE.
AP-PRAISAL, I PRE-SUME?
TALK ABOUT DOING A HALF-HEARTED JOB!
GLANCE
GLANCE
SHIGGY MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT AN "ALIBADE"...
SO AM I ALSO JUST A RELIC, THEN?
WHY DID I COME HERE?
AND WHY DOESN'T THAT SILHOUETTE COME UP HERE, TOO?
DID I COME FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE NETHER-WORLD...?
DOES THAT SYMBOL MEAN SOME-THING?
AND WHAT THE HECK IS DOWN THERE?
DOES THAT MEAN I REALLY AM A ROBOT?
"THE CURSE OF THE ABYSS"... THE TRUTH IS, I DIDN'T EVEN FEEL IT.
IN THAT CASE, THAT HUMANOID SILHOUETTE FROM THE LETTER MUST ALSO...?
WHY WAS I CREATED?

I WANT TO KNOW!

I WANT TO KNOW WHAT I REALLY AM!

OH?

ふわ SQUISH

ふわ SQUISH

AH...! MY SQUISHY THING!

YOU DON'T SEE THESE TOO OFTEN. IT'S A PRINCESS BOSOM.

BOS-OM?

ふわ SQUISH

ふわ SQUISH

IT'S A BOOB STONE, YOU KNOW? BOOB STONE. JUST AS SOFT AS A REAL ONE.

JUST AS...

BUT...

I REALLY ENJOY LIVING HERE, AND IT'D BE HARD TO LEAVE EVERYONE BEHIND...

つす FIDGET

つす FIDGET

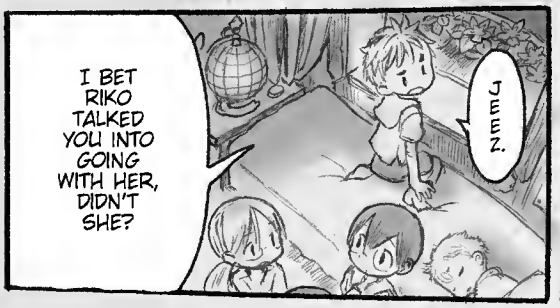
I CAN NO LONGER STAND BY AND DO NOTHING!

—That Night—
HAVE YOU DECIDED WHAT DAY YOU'RE GONNA SET OFF?
SO...
I'VE ALREADY GOT MY STUFF PACKED AND READY TO GO.
.....
I'LL HEAD OUT TOMORROW JUST BEFORE DAYBREAK.
YEP.
WELL ...
THERE ARE ALWAYS LOOK-OUTS POSTED THERE...
BUT HOW ARE YOU GOING TO SNEAK INTO THE ABYSS?
Y- YOU SURE AREN'T WASTING ANY TIME.
I'LL USE MY EXTENDABLE ARMS TO LOWER YOU DOWN.

RIKO...

I'M GOING WITH YOU...

TO THE BOTTOM OF THE NETHER-WORLD.

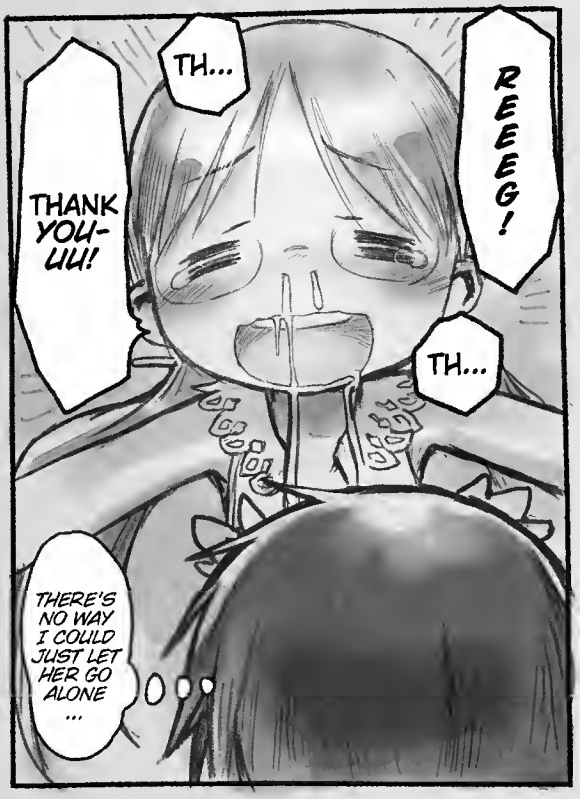


BESIDES... IT'S REALLY DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO GO WHEN YOU STILL HAVEN'T GOT YOUR MEMORY BACK.
BUT I THOUGHT IT'D BE WRONG TO HOG YOU ALL TO MYSELF.
I WANT TO GO SEE MY MOTHER...
I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO ASK YOU...

I WOULDN'T DO THAT!
THAT'S WHY I'LL FOLLOW YOU EVEN IF YOU TURN ME DOWN.
カリッ
CLUTCH

RIKO, WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO FOUND ME IN THE FIRST PLACE? AND LYZA SAW SOMETHING LIKE ME TOO.
UH-HUH ...
てろん
DRIP

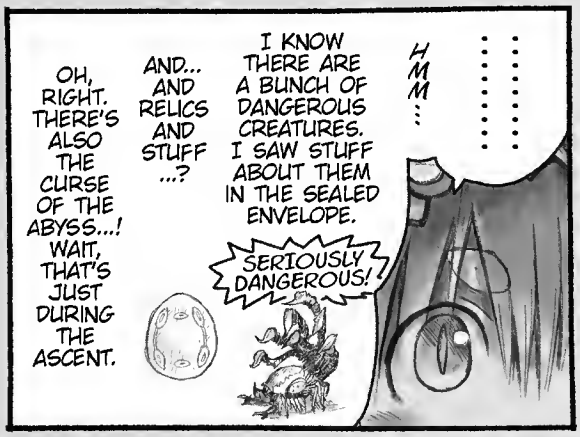
すぴー
SNIFFLE
SHE'S UNUSUALLY SWEET TODAY...

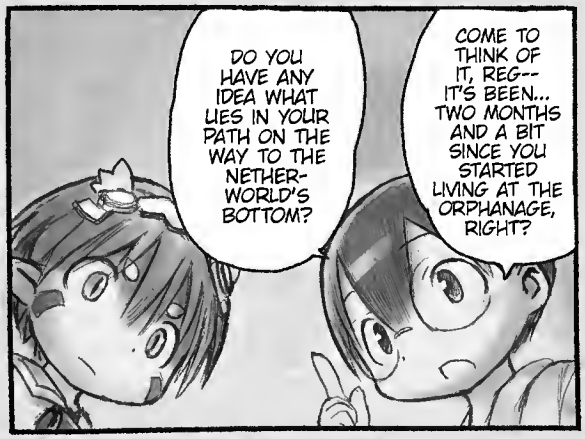

REEEG!
TH...
THANK YOU-UU!
TH...
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD JUST LET HER GO ALONE ...

AND LYZA IS CALLING FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE NETHER-WORLD.
I KNOW WE'LL REGRET IT IF WE DON'T DO ANY-THING.

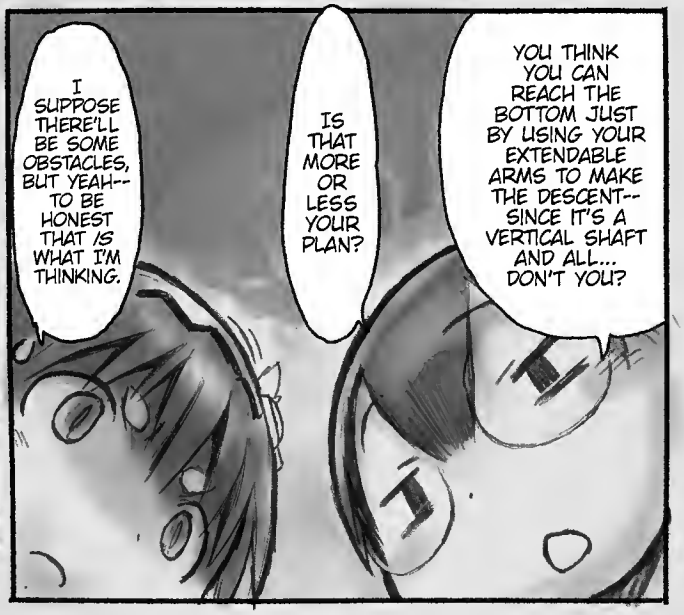
ANYWAY-- I'VE ASCENDED THE ABYSS ONCE ALREADY, HAVEN'T I? EVEN IF MY MEMORIES HAVEN'T COME BACK, I'VE STILL GOT THIS STURDY BODY.
I'LL PROTECT YOU ALL THE WAY TO THE BOTTOM OF THE NETHER-WORLD.

IT'S FINE.
EVEN IF WE TRIED TO STOP RIKO, SHE MIGHT'VE STILL GONE ON HER OWN...
BUT MY CURIOSITY GOT THE BETTER OF ME.
SORRY. I'LL BE SAD TO LEAVE YOU GUYS...
WELL... I GUESS THERE'S NO STOP-PING YOU...
TCH!


OH, RIGHT. THERE'S ALSO THE CURSE OF THE ABYSS...! WAIT, THAT'S JUST DURING THE ASCENT.
AND... AND RELICS AND STUFF ...?
I KNOW THERE ARE A BUNCH OF DANGEROUS CREATURES. I SAW STUFF ABOUT THEM IN THE SEALED ENVELOPE.
SERIOUSLY DANGEROUS!
HMM...
.....


DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT LIES IN YOUR PATH ON THE WAY TO THE NETHER-WORLD'S BOTTOM?
COME TO THINK OF IT, REG-- IT'S BEEN... TWO MONTHS AND A BIT SINCE YOU STARTED LIVING AT THE ORPHANAGE, RIGHT?

YOU WERE A BELL UNTIL JUST THE OTHER DAY AND YOUR CLASSES HAVE MOSTLY BEEN READING, WRITING, AND ARITHMETIC... THE AREA YOU'VE LEARNED ABOUT IS THE ONE WE WENT CAVE RAIDING IN YESTERDAY, WHICH IS AT A DEPTH OF ONLY 150 METERS...
I SEE.


I SUPPOSE THERE'LL BE SOME OBSTACLES, BUT YEAH-- TO BE HONEST THAT IS WHAT I'M THINKING.
IS THAT MORE OR LESS YOUR PLAN?
YOU THINK YOU CAN REACH THE BOTTOM JUST BY USING YOUR EXTENDABLE ARMS TO MAKE THE DESCENT-- SINCE IT'S A VERTICAL SHAFT AND ALL... DON'T YOU?

YOU'RE NAÏVE.
NO...
I'D SAY YOU'RE *INCRED-IBLY* NAÏVE!

I REALIZE YOU'VE LOST YOUR MEMORY, BUT I HAD NO IDEA YOU KNEW SO LITTLE...
WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING THE ABYSS, DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN MAKE THE DESCENT AND PROTECT RIKO AT THE SAME TIME?

SHOULDN'T I BE ABLE TO HOLD AND PROTECT RIKO...
WHILE USING THESE ARMS TO TAKE A SHORT ROUTE-- ONE THAT NO HUMAN WOULD BE CAPABLE OF?

WHOA...
I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY THAT, BUT... I'M BUILT QUITE STURDILY, AREN'T I?
BESIDES, THESE ARMS OF MINE EXTEND UP TO 40 METERS.
SHWFF
SHWFF

THIS'S EXACTLY WHY I'M SAYING YOU'RE NAÏVE!
MY APOLO-GIES ...

I DIDN'T THINK YOUR ARMS COULD EXTEND THAT MUCH, BUT STILL...
THE ABYSS IS FAR MORE DANGEROUS THAN YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE.

IT'S THE LATEST "ROUGH MAP OF THE NETHER-WORLD."

WHAT'S THAT?

RUSTLE

YOU GUYS ARE SERIOUS ABOUT TAKING ON THE ABYSS. SNEAKING INTO THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE IS *NOTHING* COMPARED TO THAT!
THAT'S AMAZING, SHIGGY! YOU JUST WENT AND TOOK IT?!

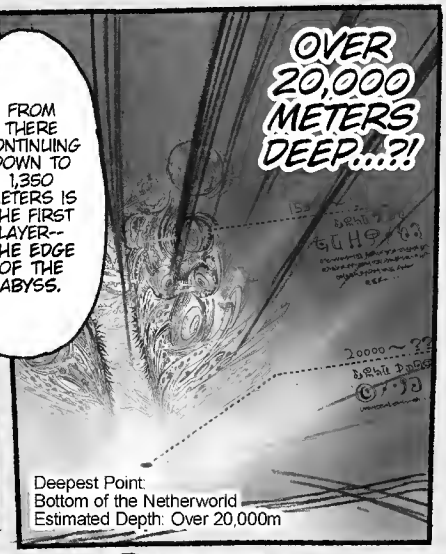
WOW, SHIGGY! EVEN YOUR ROUND GLASSES ARE STARTING TO LOOK COOL!
GEE, THANKS.
WHOA. IT'S REAL.
ばさっ
FLAP
BUT I WANTED YOU GUYS-- REG IN PARTIC-ULAR-- TO SEE IT.
RED WHISTLES PROBABLY AREN'T READY FOR THIS INFO YET...
HURRY UP.

WELL, HERE IT IS...

Orth, The City of the Great Pit
0m
0~1,350m
The Depths'
First Layer:
The Edge of the Abyss
Monitoring Base
(Seeker Camp)
2,540m
Inverted Forest
1,350~2,600m
The Depths'
Second Layer:
The Forest of Temptation
2,600~7,000m
The Depths'
Third Layer:
The Great Fault
THIS IS THE CURRENT STATE OF THE ABYSS!
7,000~12,000m
The Depths'
Fourth Layer:
The Goblet of Giants
12,000m~13,000m
The Depths'
Fifth Layer:
The Sea of Corpses
13,000m~15,500m
The Depths'
Sixth Layer:
The Capital of the Unreturned
15,500m~???m
The Depths'
Seventh Layer:
The Final Maelstrom
The Depths'
Deepest Point:
The Bottom of
the Netherworld
Over 20,000m Deep

0th
0m
550m
THIS IS ABOUT WHERE WE WERE CAVE RAIDING TODAY.
KEEP HEADING DOWN TO 550 METERS... AND THAT'S THE DEPTH LIMIT FOR RED WHISTLES.

STARTING HERE IT'S THE SECOND LAYER, THE FOREST OF TEMPTATION. THE ENVIRONMENT BEGINS TO CHANGE AND THE STRAIN OF ASCENDING IS SAID TO SUDDENLY BECOME MORE SEVERE.
THE CREATURES AND ENVIRONMENT HERE DON'T REALLY CHANGE MUCH, BUT BEASTS FROM THE SECOND LAYER SOMETIMES COME UP TO FEED, SO KEEP YOUR GUARD UP.


FROM THERE CONTINUING DOWN TO 1,350 METERS IS THE FIRST LAYER-- THE EDGE OF THE ABYSS.
OVER 20,000 METERS DEEP...?!
Deepest Point:
Bottom of the Netherworld
Estimated Depth: Over 20,000m

MY ARMS STRETCH OUT 40 METERS IF I EXTEND THEM TO THEIR FULLEST...

IT'S TREATED AS A SUICIDE.

IF A RED WHISTLE DESCENDS DOWN THAT FAR, NO HELP WILL BE SENT AFTER THEM...
THAT'S BECAUSE BOTH HEADING THERE AND RETURNING HOME BECOME VERY DIFFICULT.

THAT'S RIGHT!
THERE'S A FAMOUS STORY ABOUT SOME FOREIGN CAVE RAIDERS WHO MADE A GO AT IT WITH AN AIRSHIP, BUT FLYING BEASTS TORE THE SHIP APART, DOWNING IT.
THE AIR CURRENTS ARE SUPER UNSTABLE, AND SAVAGE PREDATORS FILL THE SKIES.
DESCENDING WITH YOUR ARMS WON'T WORK HERE, SO BE CAREFUL.
THE FOREST EVENTUALLY TAKES THE SHAPE OF AN OVERTURNED BOWL, LIKE A RAT GUARD, AND AT THAT POINT YOU ENTER THE INVERTED FOREST.

AND ALSO ABOUT THE OTHER THINGS SHE HAD AND STUFF.
I HOPE IT'S ALL RIGHT ...
I'M GOING TO ASK THE SENTRIES THERE WHERE THEY FOUND MY MOTHER'S ENVELOPE ...

YEP!
YOUR FIRST GOAL WILL BE TO REACH THE SEEKER CAMP, WHICH IS LOCATED NEAR THE END OF THE SECOND LAYER.

HOW DID I MANAGE TO CLIMB UP FROM SOME-WHERE LIKE THAT ...?!

THE PEOPLE WHO ASCEND AND DESCEND WHILE CARRYING RELICS IN A PLACE LIKE THAT MUST HAVE A SCREW LOOSE.
4,000 METERS...
THE STRAINS OF AS-CENDING GET EVEN MORE SERIOUS. AMONG OTHER THINGS, YOU'LL START TO SEE AND HEAR THINGS THAT AREN'T THERE.

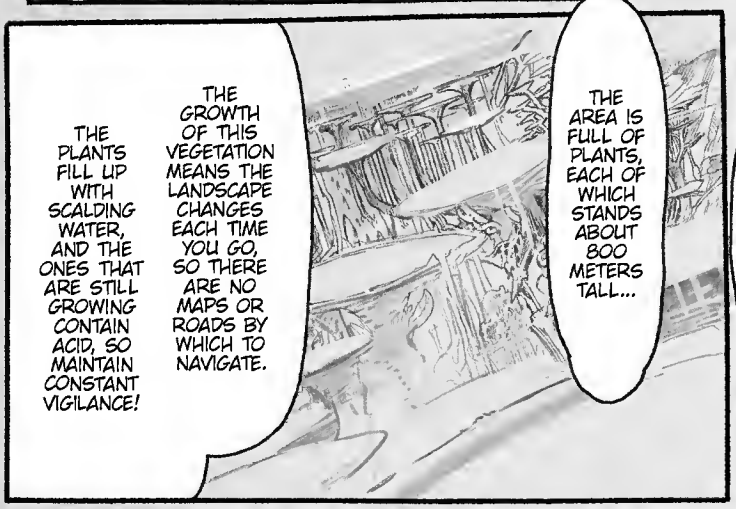
THE THIRD LAYER: THE GREAT FAULT.
HERE YOU'LL FIND A VERTICAL CLIFF FACE OF OVER 4,000 METERS STANDING IN YOUR WAY.

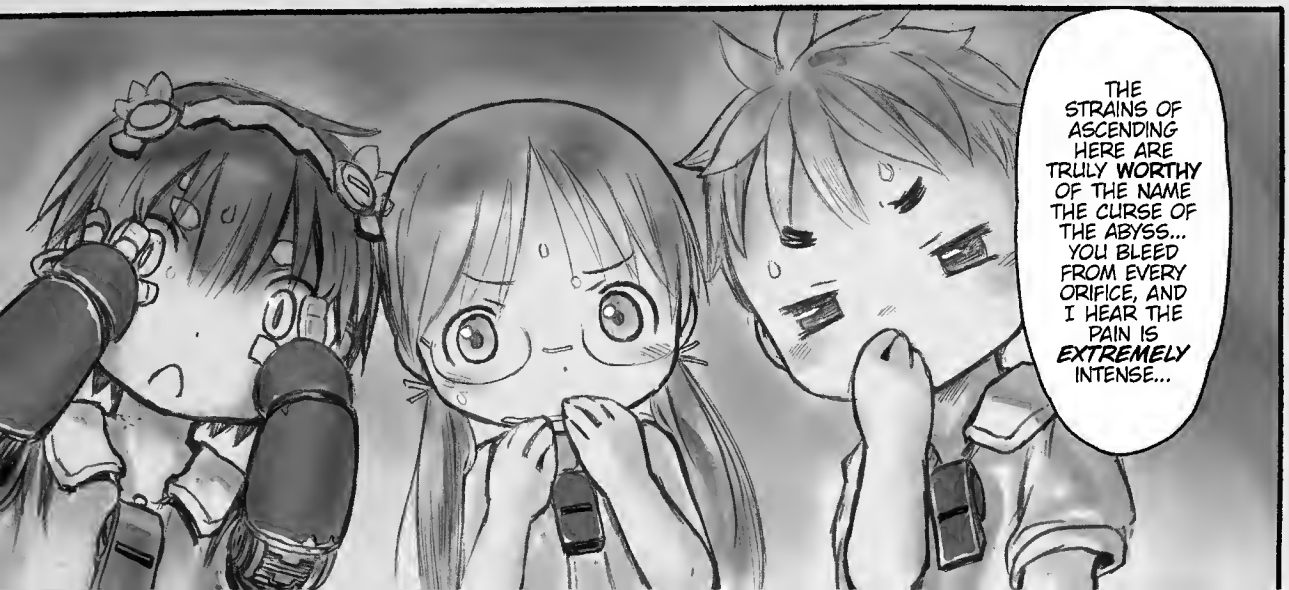
H
MM...
THE SUCCESS OF THIS JOURNEY DEPENDS ON YOUR MEMORY, YOU KNOW!

YOU MUST'VE KNOWN HOW BEFORE YOU LOST YOUR MEMORY!
EX-ACTLY! REALLY MAKES YOU THINK, DOESN'T IT?!
POINT

ANYWAY, WE'RE FINALLY ON TO THE FOURTH LAYER! ONLY **BLACK WHISTLES** AND ABOVE CAN GO HERE.
IT'D BE GREAT IF YOU COULD REMEMBER SOMETHING BY LOOKING AT THE PLACES ON THIS MAP...

SEEMS LIKE SHIGGY'S GETTING MORE AND MORE EXCITED...
THE DEPTH IS ABOUT 7,000 METERS! THEY CALL IT **"THE GOBLET OF GIANTS."**


THE AREA IS FULL OF PLANTS, EACH OF WHICH STANDS ABOUT 800 METERS TALL...
THE GROWTH OF THIS VEGETATION MEANS THE LANDSCAPE CHANGES EACH TIME YOU GO, SO THERE ARE NO MAPS OR ROADS BY WHICH TO NAVIGATE.
THE PLANTS FILL UP WITH SCALDING WATER, AND THE ONES THAT ARE STILL GROWING CONTAIN ACID, SO MAINTAIN CONSTANT VIGILANCE!


THE STRAINS OF ASCENDING HERE ARE TRULY **WORTHY** OF THE NAME THE CURSE OF THE ABYSS... YOU BLEED FROM EVERY ORIFICE, AND I HEAR THE PAIN IS ***EXTREMELY*** INTENSE...

THEY CALL IT "THE SEA OF CORPSES," AND THE DEPTH HERE SURPASSES 12,000 METERS.

THE FIFTH LAYER! THIS IS THE DOMAIN OF WHITE WHISTLES ALONE, AND YOU CAN COUNT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO'VE MADE IT BACK FROM HERE ON YOUR HANDS!

SO IT'S EITHER A WATERFALL OR A DIVE... I HAVE TO THINK OF A WAY TO GET THROUGH THERE WHILE STILL PROTECTING RIKO...

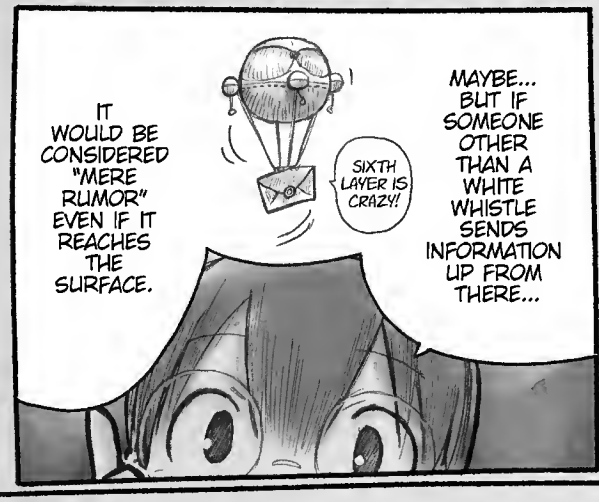
THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO DIVING IS TO DESCEND DOWN THE WATERFALL. AND IT GETS WORSE, TOO-- THERE ARE A LOT OF DANGEROUS CREATURES DOWN THERE.

ITS SURFACE IS COVERED IN WATER-- I HEAR YOU'LL HAVE TO DIVE IN IF YOU WANT TO DESCEND ANY DEEPER.

IT'S SAID THICK, SLIMY WATER HOLDS UP THE REGULAR WATER!

AND THEN THE SEVENTH LAYER, "THE FINAL MAELSTROM."

THE SIXTH LAYER, "THE CAPITAL OF THE UNRETURNED."



WHEN A WHITE WHISTLE DESCENDS TO THE SIXTH LAYER, THEY CROSS THE ABSOLUTE BOUNDARY... PEOPLE CALL IT THEIR "LAST DIVE"...

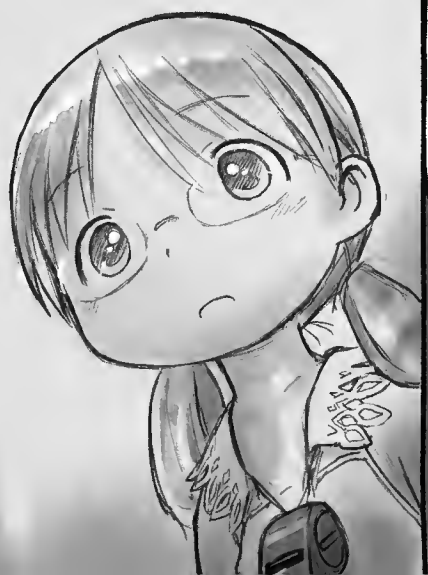
BECAUSE THEY'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO RETURN HOME.

THE VOICES OF THE WHITE WHISTLES ARE THE VOICES OF THE ABYSS.

EVEN AFTER THEY HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES...

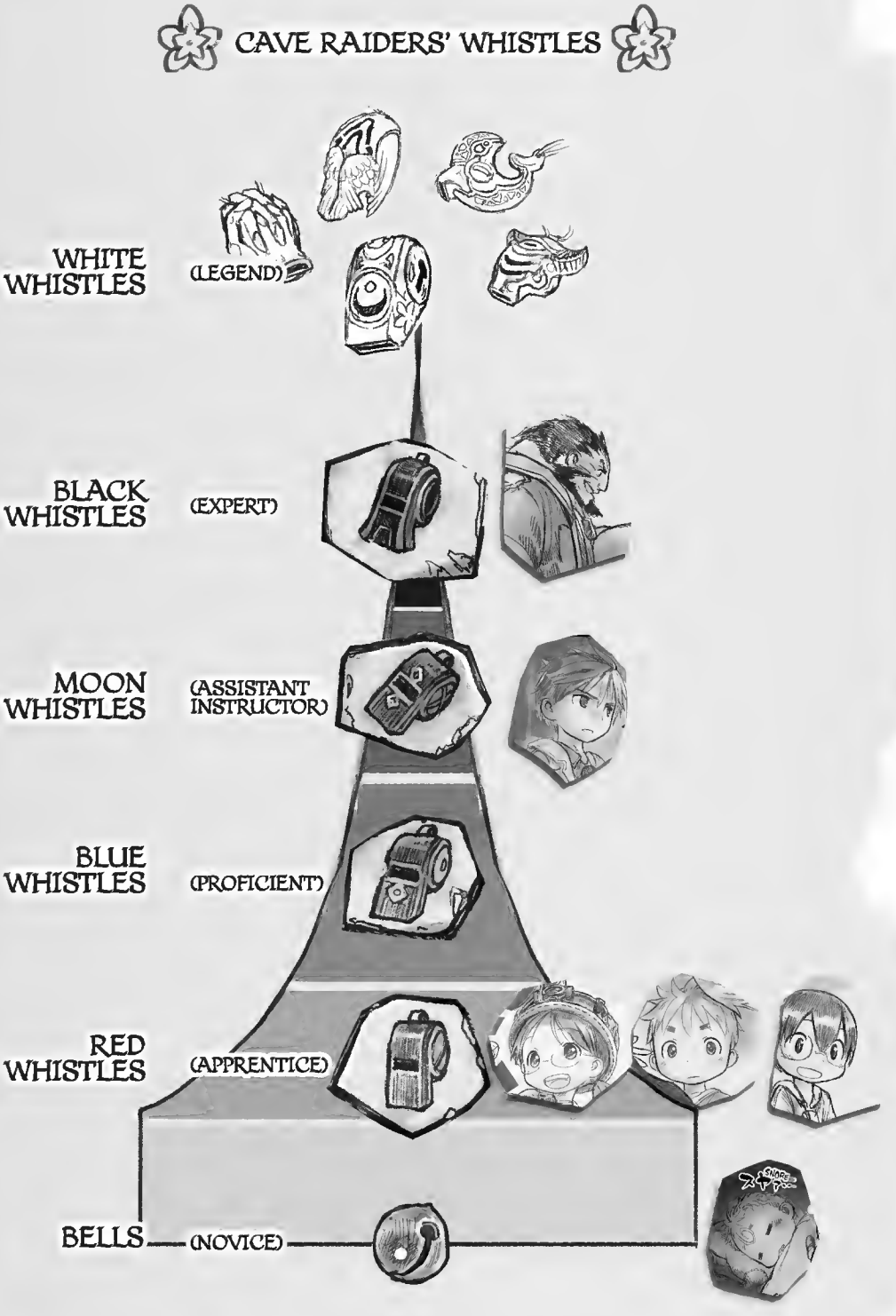
THE WHITE WHISTLES LIVE ON AS THE VOICES OF THE ABYSS...

AND GUIDE EVERYONE.



LOOK, RIKO. SORRY TO BURST YOUR BUBBLE, BUT...
I'M GOING NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE SAYS!
MY MOTHER'S WAITING FOR ME!
TGH!
WEREN'T YOU LISTENING TO WHAT SHIGGY SAID? DON'T YOU GET IT...?!
DO YOU REALLY THINK ANYONE COULD LIVE SOME-WHERE LIKE THAT FOR TEN YEARS?!
WHY DID HER WHISTLE MAKE ITS WAY UP HERE?!
THINK ABOUT IT!
WH-WHAT ARE--?

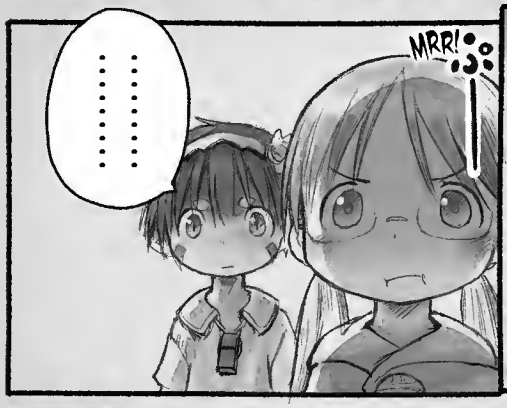
YOUR MOM...
DIED A LONG TIME AGO!!!
UWAAAAAAAAAH!!
SOB
AH!
KI-YUI!
THERE, THERE NOW...
KLATTER
UWAAAH
DASH
AH...!


CAVE RAIDERS' WHISTLES
WHITE WHISTLES
(LEGEND)
BLACK WHISTLES
(EXPERT)
MOON WHISTLES
(ASSISTANT INSTRUCTOR)
BLUE WHISTLES
(PROFICIENT)
RED WHISTLES
(APPRENTICE)
BELLS
(NOVICE)

4:30 A.M.
The Day of Departure.
SUU
SUU
PLOP
HELLO, ABYSS
08
HERE WE GO!
YOU THINK THEY'LL BE ABLE TO TELL WHO I AM WITH THIS ON?
PROB-ABLY NOT ...
.....
OKAY, THANKS!
I LOWERED OUR BAGS AND SPARE CLOTHES DOWN TO THE THICKET BELOW.

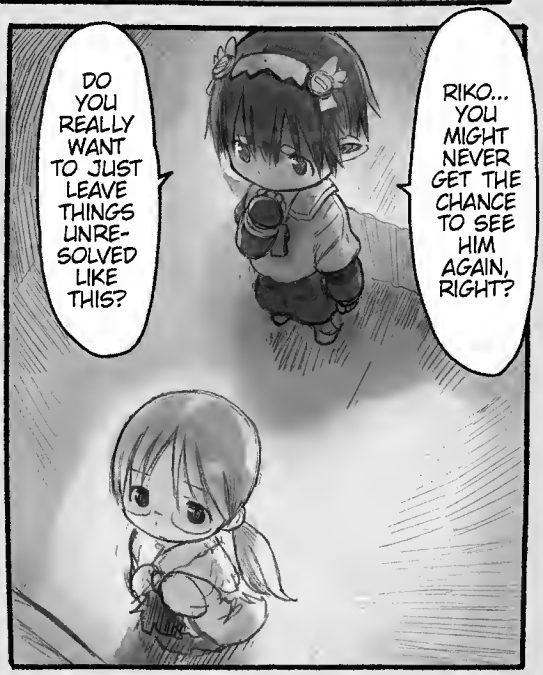
I DON'T CARE WHAT THAT GUY'S DOING!
IS PROB-ABLY--

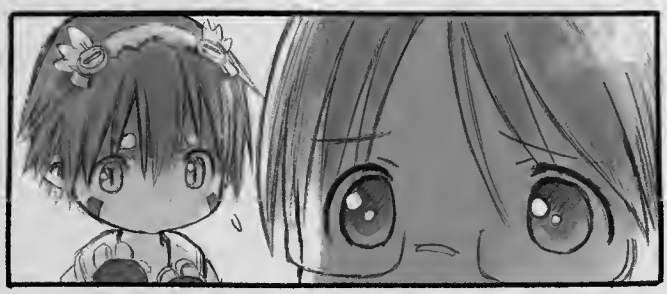
BY THE WAY, WHERE'S NAT?
UH, YEAH... RIGHT NOW, NAT...


.....
MRR!

HUMPH!
IT WAS NAT'S CONCERN FOR YOU THAT MADE HIM CROSS THE LINE LIKE THAT.
RIKO...

SURE DON'T.
I...


DO YOU REALLY WANT TO JUST LEAVE THINGS UNRE-SOLVED LIKE THIS?
RIKO... YOU MIGHT NEVER GET THE CHANCE TO SEE HIM AGAIN, RIGHT?



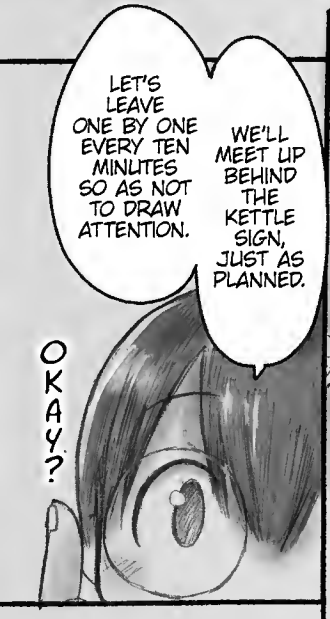
I DON'T WANT TO, EITHER.
BUT HE'S AGAINST US GOING ...
AND HE SAID SOME NASTY STUFF.
もふ
GLOMP

とぼ
PLOD
とぼ
PLOD

RIKO ...
IF NAT APOLOGIZES, WILL YOU FORGIVE HIM?
WHAT ?!
Y-YEAH ...

SHOULD I MAKE UP WITH HIM?

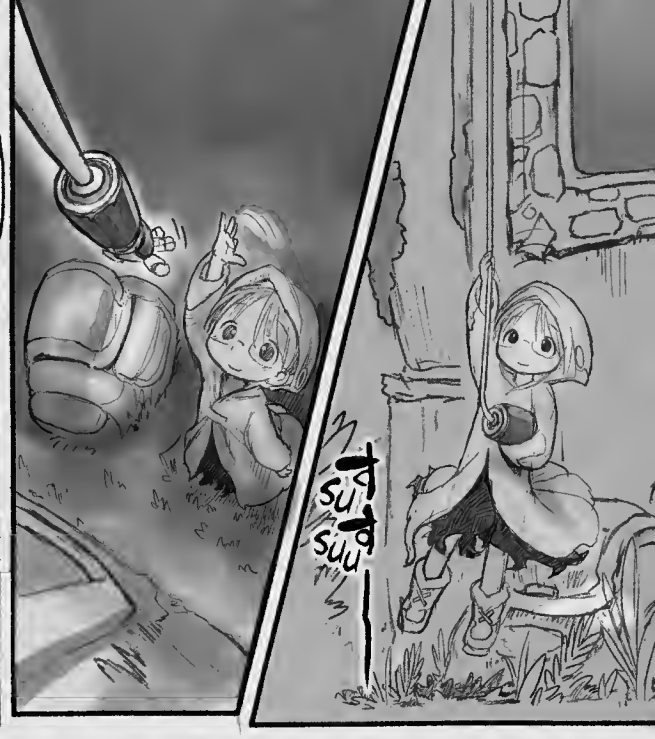
HEY, REG ...
WHAT DO YOU THINK I SHOULD DO?


LET'S LEAVE ONE BY ONE EVERY TEN MINUTES SO AS NOT TO DRAW ATTENTION.
WE'LL MEET UP BEHIND THE KETTLE SIGN, JUST AS PLANNED.
OKAY?

IF YOU DON'T GET GOING SOON, YOU'LL RUN OUT OF TIME!
ALL RIGHT, BOTH OF YOU!

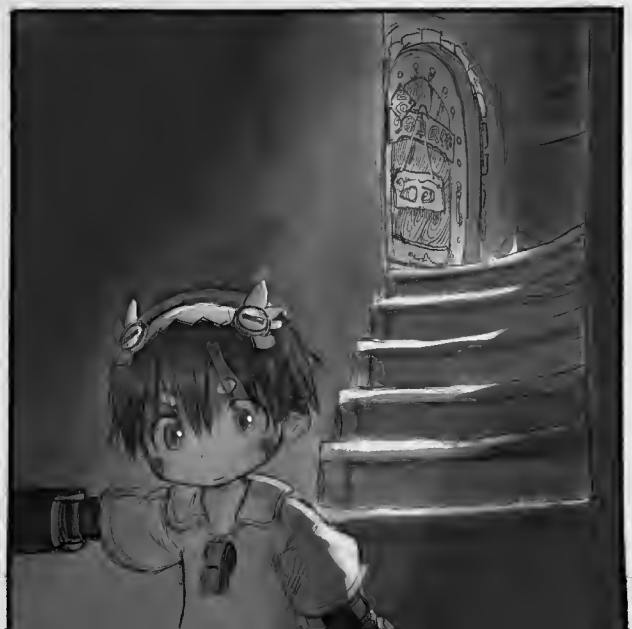
BUT HE CAN BE QUITE STUBBORN.
DON'T WORRY. I THINK NAT REGRETS WHAT HE DID.
REALLY?
REALLY.

SHIGGY, YOU WANT A HAND, TOO?
I'LL GET DOWN THERE MY-SELF.
OKAY.


SUU SUU

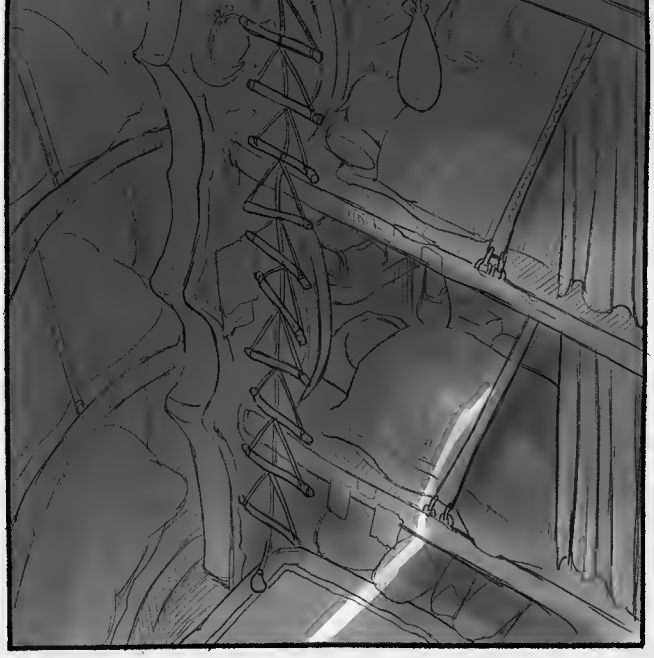
WHAT'S WRONG?
?
YOU GO AHEAD AND HEAD OUT AFTER TEN MINUTES. I'LL LEAVE LAST.
SORRY, BUT THERE'S STILL SOME-THING I NEED TO DO.

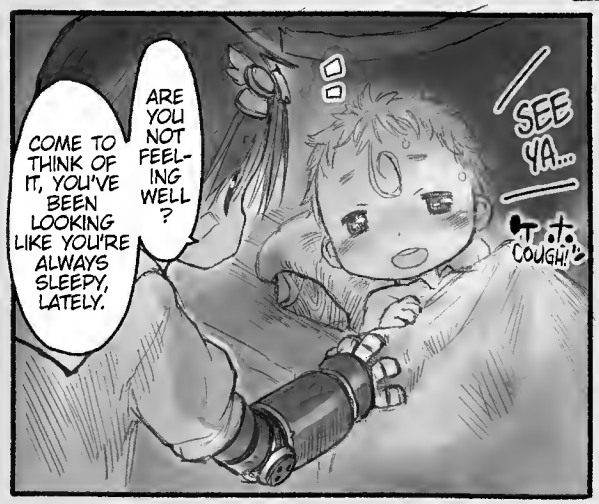
SHIG-GY...
.....
I BETTER PUT ON MY DIS-GUISE, TOO.



FINE-- BUT BE REALLY CAREFUL NOT TO GET CAUGHT BY LEADER.
I KNOW.

KIYUI ...
SNORE... スヤァ...
KIYUI ...
PAT ぽん
PAT ぽん




SEE YA...
COUGH!
ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL?
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING LIKE YOU'RE ALWAYS SLEEPY, LATELY.

ひそ WHISPER...
I CAME TO SAY GOOD-BYE.
STUFF LIKE THIS'S IMPORTANT, YOU KNOW.
WH... WHAT...?

ふらふら
ガタン KA-CLUNK

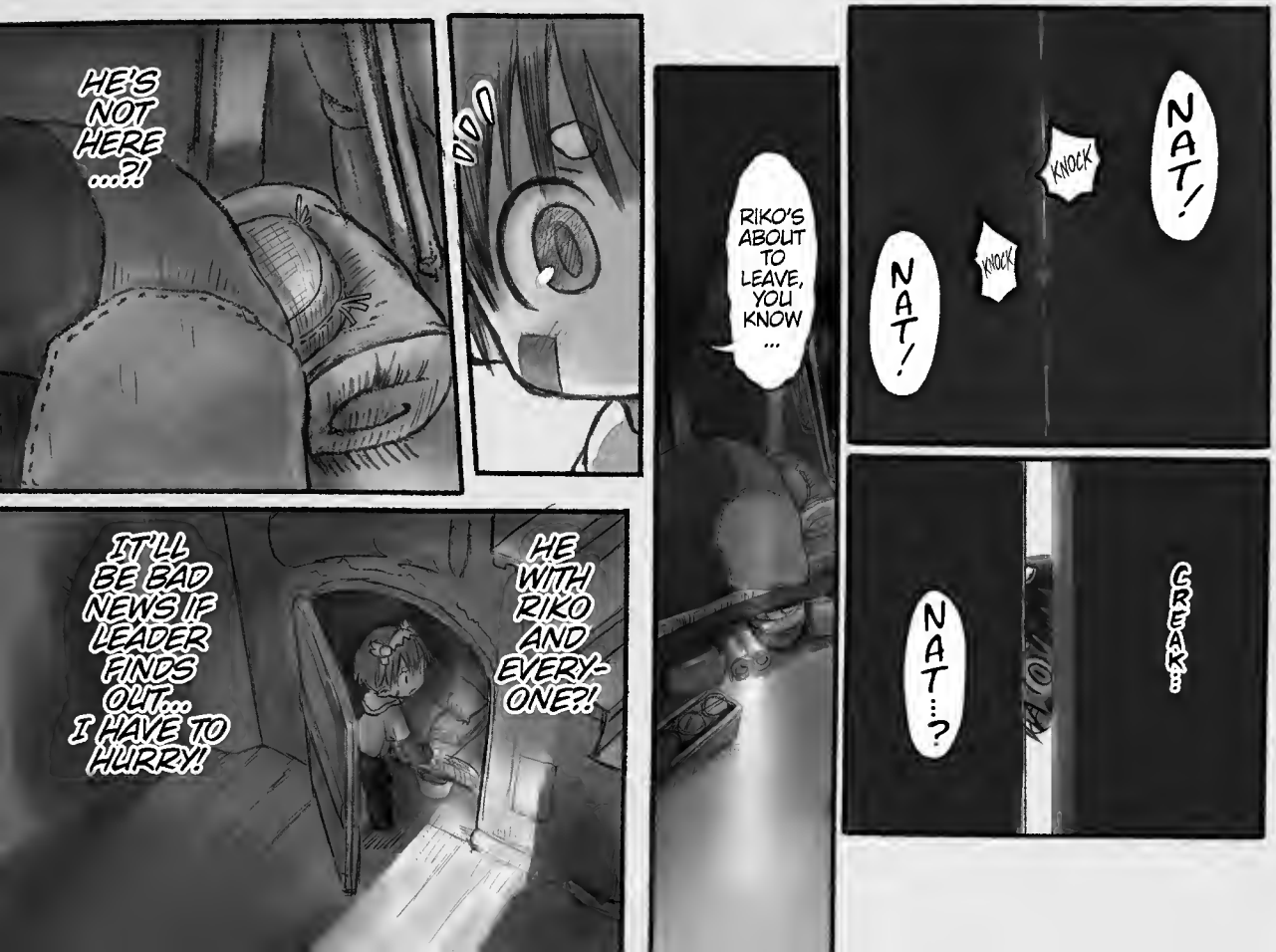
.....

KIYUI, DON'T LOOK INTO ANY MIRRORS THE MORNING OF YOUR BIRTHDAY, OKAY?
WHY?
JUST DON'T.

I'M SORRY I WOKE YOU UP. GOOD NIGHT.
THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW IS MY BIRTHDAY...
I SEE. I HOPE YOU GET BETTER BEFORE YOUR BIG DAY. GROW UP NICE AND STRONG.

REG, WHERE'RE YOU GOING?
T-TO THE BATH-ROOM ...!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT YOUR-SELF, LEADER ?
I'M ON PATROL, YOU FOOL. I DO THIS EVERY NIGHT AFTER YOU ALL FALL ASLEEP.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, ANY IDEA WHERE RIKO IS?
SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE IN HER ROOM ...
RIKO... WENT TO TAKE A DUMP!
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?
SHE HAS THE RUNS...
SHE SCAV-ENGING FOR FOOD AGAIN ?
JEEZ, THAT GIRL...
.....
TAP

R... ROGER!
YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY TO THE BATH-ROOM TOO, RIGHT?
STAY WITH HER AND MAKE SURE SHE'S OKAY.


NAT!
KNOCK
KNOCK
NAT!
RIKO'S ABOUT TO LEAVE, YOU KNOW ...
CREAK...
NAT...?
HE'S NOT HERE ...?!
HE WITH RIKO AND EVERY-ONE?!
IT'LL BE BAD NEWS IF LEADER FINDS OUT... I HAVE TO HURRY!

Orth's South District,
Behind the Foundry.

HEEY!

YEAH, THE USUAL GATE TO THE NETHERWORLD IS ALWAYS CLOSELY GUARDED, AFTER ALL.

SO WE'RE GONNA HEAD FOR THE WHARF QUARTER NOW--RIGHT, SHIGGY?

NAT... WHERE DID YOU GO?

THAT'S WHY I ASKED SOMEONE TO HELP US, SEE?

YEP...

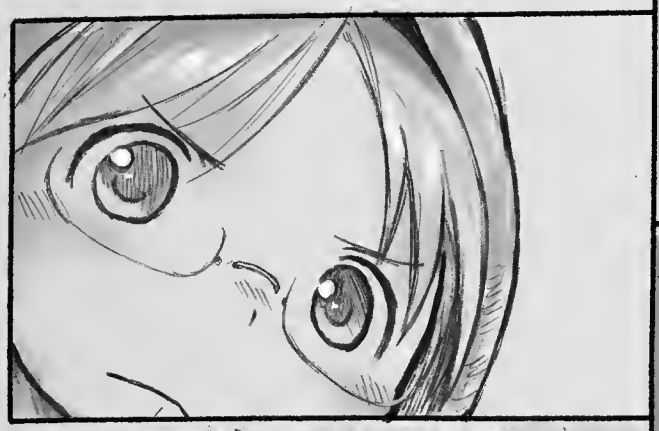
YOU "HEAR"?

AFTER ALL, WE'VE NEVER ACTUALLY BEEN TO THE WHARF QUARTER BEFORE.

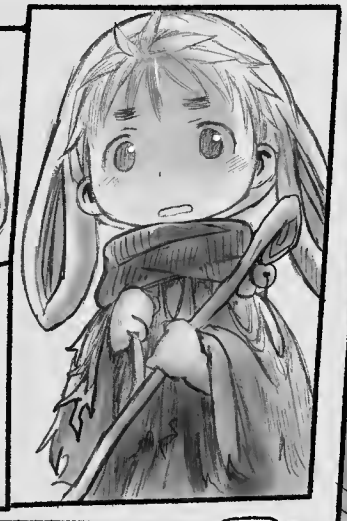
EVEN IF YOU'RE GONNA DESCEND USING REG'S ARMS, IT'D BE TROUBLE IF YOU GOT CAUGHT BEFORE YOU EVEN GET THERE, YOU KNOW?

I HEAR THE WHARF QUARTER IN THE SLUMS HAS A GOOD SPOT TO ENTER FROM.

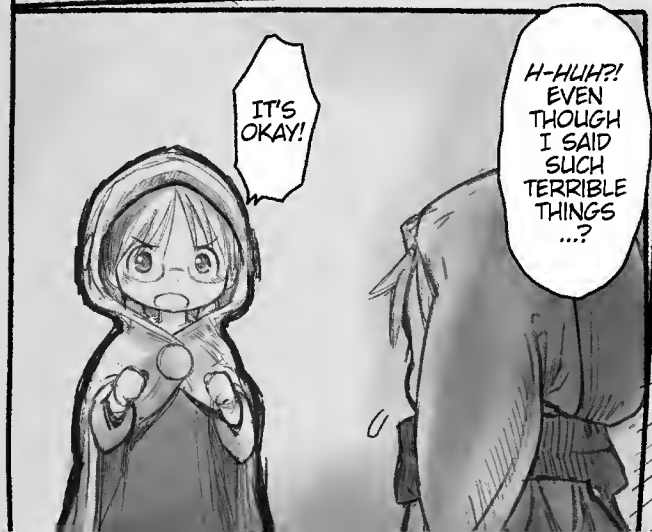
HUUUH?
WE'RE IN YOUR HANDS.
JINGAJING
?
SNIFF
SNIFF
IT'S NAT!
THAT'S DEFINITELY HIS SCENT!
JIING
.....
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, NAT?
HE'S HIDING HIS TRUE IDENTITY TO HELP RIKO--- NOT ONLY THAT, BUT...
I SEE!



WELL, I...



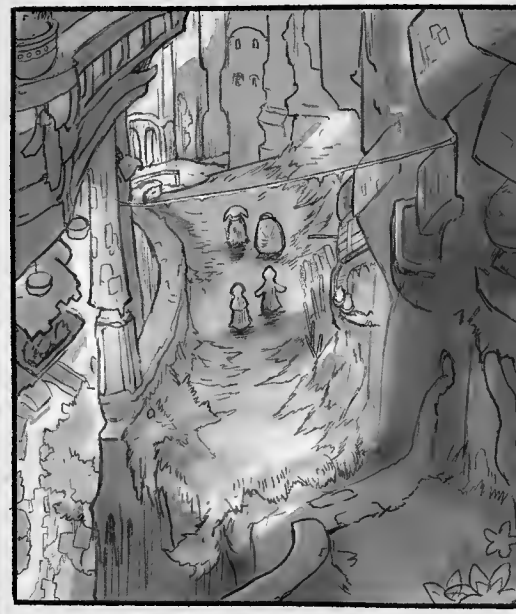
SOR-RY ...
THAT WAS WRONG ...
WHAT I DID YESTER-DAY.
I FOR-GIVE YOU!


IT'S OKAY!
H-HUH?! EVEN THOUGH I SAID SUCH TERRIBLE THINGS ...?

I WANT US TO MAKE UP!
BE-CAUSE ...
TODAY IS THE DAY WE SAY GOOD-BYE!!
HEY, NAT.
.....
FWP
YOU'RE HELPING US LIKE THIS...
BE-CAUSE YOU'RE OKAY WITH US GOING NOW, RIGHT?
FOL-LOW ME.
I'M AGAINST IT...
BUT I'LL HELP YOU.
WHAT? YOU STILL OP-POSE IT?
THEN YOU DON'T HAVE TO..
WHAT?! NO...!
Y...
YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR WAY AROUND THE WHARF QUARTER, RIGHT?!

NOW RIKO AND I WILL BOTH BE ABLE TO SEND OFF OUR LETTERS WITHOUT ANY RESERVATIONS.
REALLY GLAD YOU CAME TODAY.

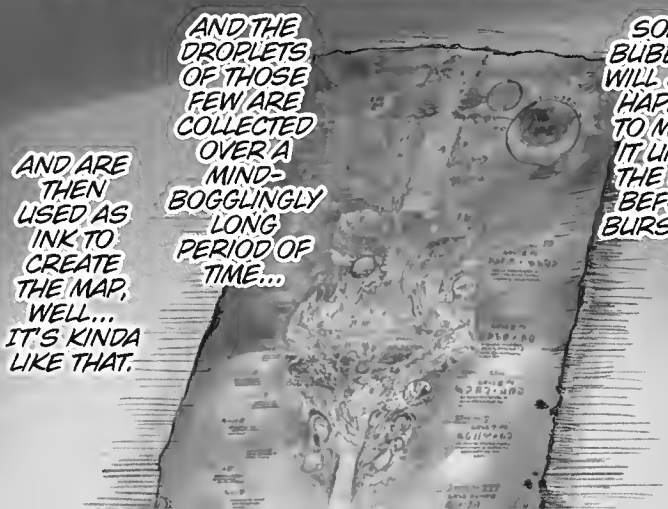
I'M GLAD, NAT.
Leans



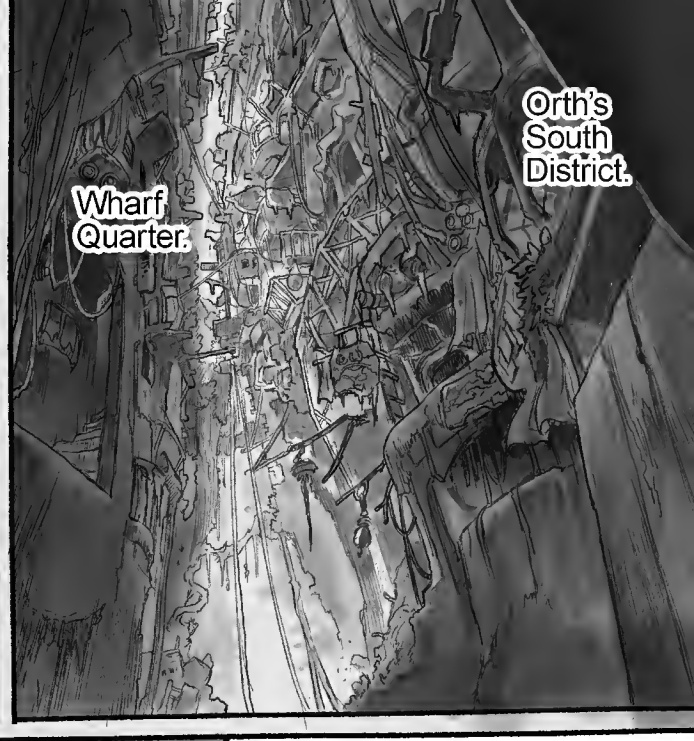
THEN... IT MUST'VE BEEN REALLY HARD TO MAKE THAT MAP.
ARE VERY LOW.
WELL, REG, EVEN FOR A WHITE WHISTLE THE ODDS OF A MAIL BALLOON MAKING IT TO THE SURFACE FROM THE DEEPER DEPTHS ...

INDEED. WELL, LOOK AT IT LIKE THIS...
IF EACH ONE OF THEM FLOATS UP A SOAP BUBBLE COMPOSED OF THEIR OWN LIVES...

STUUPID.
THE FIRST OR SECOND LAYERS ARE ONE THING, BUT FROM WHERE YOU'RE GOING, A MAIL BALLOON WILL NEVER MAKE IT TO THE SURFACE.
IS THAT SO?! BUT HE SAID THAT THE VOICES OF THE WHITE WHISTLES REACH YOU.

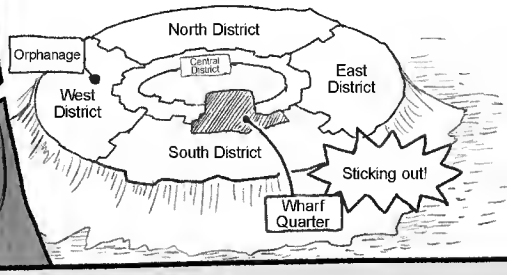

SOME BUBBLES WILL JUST HAPPEN TO MAKE IT UP TO THE SKY BEFORE BURSTING.
AND THE DROPLETS OF THOSE FEW ARE COLLECTED OVER A MIND-BOGGLINGLY LONG PERIOD OF TIME...
AND ARE THEN USED AS INK TO CREATE THE MAP, WELL... IT'S KINDA LIKE THAT.

IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
EVEN IF YOU MAKE IT TO THE DEEPER LAYERS, SENDING LETTERS IS PRETTY MUCH IMPOSSIBLE.
YOU HEARD HIM!
THE MAP FROM YESTERDAY WAS JUST A PRINTED COPY, THOUGH.
HM? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
ALL ADDRESSED TO YOU GUYS!
I'LL SEND A WHOLE BUNCH OF 'EM!
WELL, I WAS THINKING ONE OF YOUR FANCIFUL IDEAS ACTUALLY MAKES SENSE FOR A CHANGE, RIKO.
THAT'S SO MEAN!!
SHE MIGHT EVEN HAVE PUT THINGS IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT ENVELOPES. THE CONTENTS OF THAT ONE DIDN'T SEEM LIKE A WHOLE TEN YEARS' WORTH OF STUFF, AFTER ALL. AND THEN MAYBE SHE JUST PUT ONE OF THESE INSIDE EACH OF THEM...
I MEAN, THIS "AT THE NETHERWORLD'S BOTTOM, I'LL BE WAITING" LOOKS LIKE IT WAS SCRAWLED OUT HASTILY.
I BET MY MOTHER DID THE SAME THING.



BUILDINGS WERE ADDED TO AS THE QUARTER GREW, AND NOW HALF OF IT IS ENCROACHING INTO THE ABYSS.

THE WHARF QUARTER WAS FOUNDED BY PEOPLE WHO WERE CAVE RAIDING **ILLEGALLY.**



AND THEN I WAS TAKEN IN BY THE ORPHANAGE.
MY BIG SIS DIED, SO I WAS LEFT WITHOUT ANY RELATIVES...
SO IT WAS BASED ON NAT'S EARLY YEARS, HUH?
THAT'S THE STORY I TOLD LEADER WHEN I FIRST ENTERED THE ORPHANAGE...
I SEE.
YOU WERE ?!
WELL, THIS IS WHERE I WAS BORN.
I WAS RAG-PICKING EVER SINCE I CAN REMEM-BER.
AND THEN ...
I'D LIKE TO OPEN AN ORPHAN-AGE HERE.
IF I CAN BECOME A MOON WHISTLE LIKE LEADER ...
YOU OF ALL PEO-PLE CAN DO IT, NAT!
ぱたっ
?
CAN'T YOU COME UP WITH SOME BETTER COMPLI-MENTS?
AND YOU HAVE ABOUT AS MUCH ENERGY AS I DO, TOO!
ATTA-BOY!
ATTA-BOY!
YOU'RE JUST ABOUT AS GOOD AT CAVE RAIDING AS I AM!
KIDS AROUND HERE ALL SEE THAT GATE TO THE NETHER-WORLD AND START ASPIRING TO BE CAVE RAIDERS...
I GOT LUCKY AND WAS TAKEN IN OFF THE STREETS ...
OTHERWISE, I WOULD'VE GOTTEN SICK FROM THE TOXINS IN THE GARBAGE, OR DIED, LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.

OH MAN...
WE'RE...
.....
ALREADY HERE.
FROOOO

HMM. SO THIS THING REALLY DOES FIT ME TO A T.
TICK...
TICK...
GA-CHUN
!
WHAT'S THIS HERE?
HM?
NOW, WHERE DID I PUT THAT WHISTLE ...?
TEE HEE. WELL THEN, I'LL MAKE SURE TO INCLUDE A SOUVENIR WITH EACH OF THEM.
YOU'LL HAVE AN AUBADE WITH YOU, SO I'LL DEFINITELY BE A BELIEVER IF ONE OF YOUR MAIL BALLOONS MAKES IT HERE.
I THINK THERE'S A CHANCE.
.....

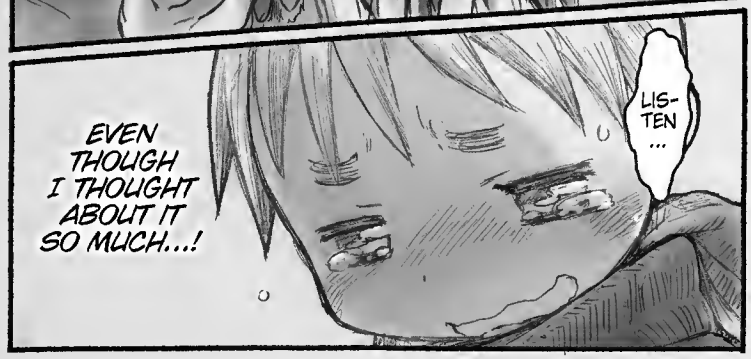
NAT!

RIKO.
TURN

RIKO...

HUH ...?
YOU KNOW, I...
U-UH ...
RI-KO ...

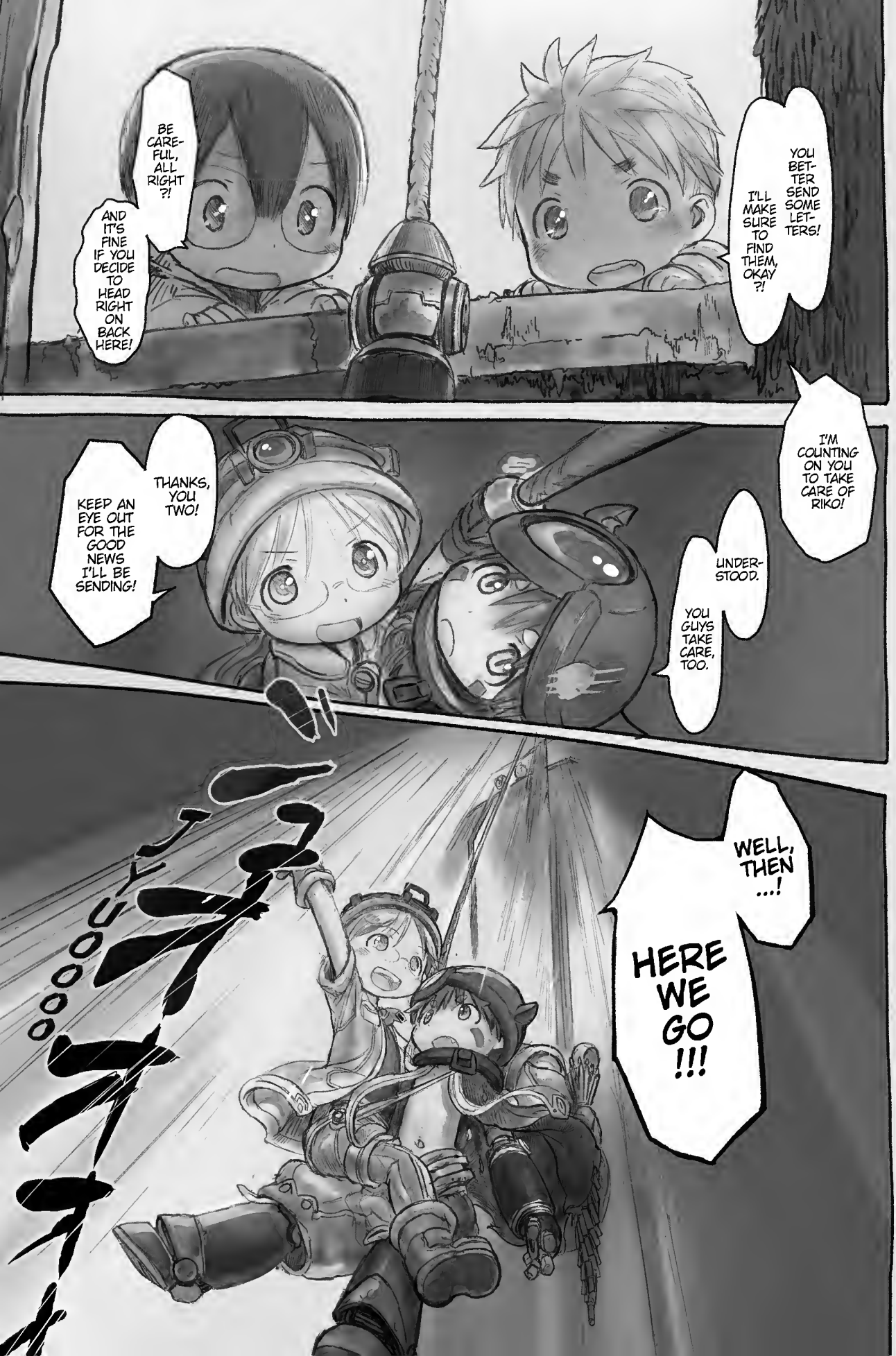
SO MUCH...
DON'T CRY.
NAT ...
DAMMIT...

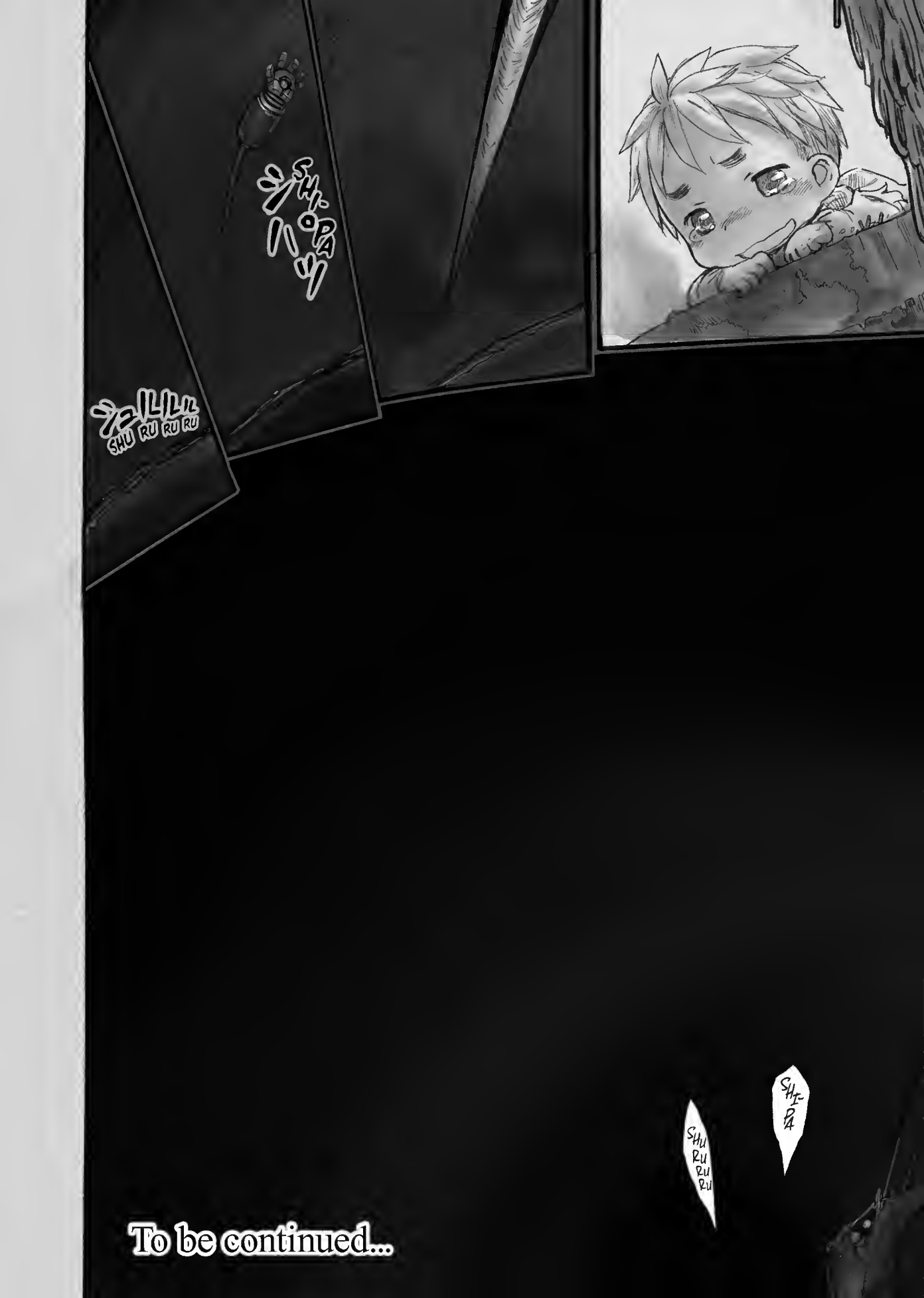

EVEN THOUGH I THOUGHT ABOUT IT SO MUCH...!
LIS-TEN ...

YOU'RE REALLY AMAZING, NAT! I NEVER THOUGHT WE'D MAKE IT OUT HERE WITH SO LITTLE TROUBLE!
THANKS!
SHAKE!
Y-YEAH ...
SHAKE!

SNIFF
しょぼろ PLIP
WE'LL BE CON-NECTED BY THE ABYSS ...!
E-EVEN IF...
PLIP ぽろ
EVEN IF WE NEVER GET TO SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN ...
IT'S ALL RIGHT!
がしっ GRIP
!
.....
WHAT NOW ...?
すひっ SNIFFLE
BE IT ON THE SUR-FACE ...
OR IN THE FAR REACHES OF THE CURSED NETHER-WORLD...
WE'RE CON-NECTED BY THE ABYSS!
I'LL NEVER FORGET ABOUT THE TIME I SPENT UP HERE OKAY?!
SO IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT !!

SNIFF すん
THERE ...
YOU GO AGAIN.
THAT'S RIGHT!!
I'M AT IT AGAIN !!!
SHIT!!
DA-
DAN
WELL ...
REG, HURRY!
IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT !!
OH CRAP! SOME-ONE WOKE UP!
.....
CAN WAIT.
I GUESS LEADER'S LETTER...


YOU BETTER SEND SOME LETTERS!
I'LL MAKE SURE TO FIND THEM, OKAY?!
BE CAREFUL, ALL RIGHT?!
AND IT'S FINE IF YOU DECIDE TO HEAD RIGHT ON BACK HERE!
I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO TAKE CARE OF RIKO!
UNDERSTOOD.
YOU GUYS TAKE CARE, TOO.
THANKS, YOU TWO!
KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THE GOOD NEWS I'LL BE SENDING!
WELL, THEN...!
HERE WE GO!!!



To be continued...

I'd originally thought up this story for a doujinshi and had intended it to be a picture book with a bit of pop-up action.

So when I set out to take that idea and make it into a serialized manga, I started by creating an overarching plot that would be suitable for the medium. According to that plan, the content of the first volume was supposed to fit into three chapters.

However, my plans fell apart, one after the other...

I thought I'd have no problem handling by myself have turned out to be really tough. Plus, the storyboards take a lot of time to create, and my editor keeps calling the benikuchinawa (crimson splitjaw) the benichikuwa (crimson fish-paste cake), so it feels like nothing is going as planned. However, I have been able to write and illustrate in the way I want, so I'm managing somehow.

Hopefully, I'll be able to write and illustrate the story all the way to its end. I plan on making it more and more exciting.

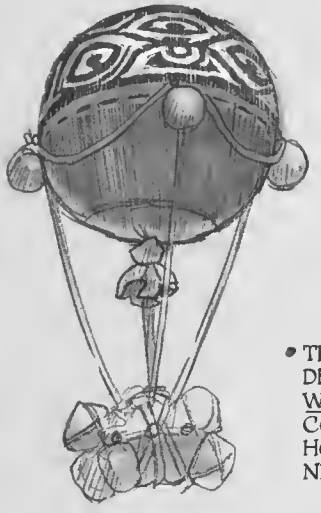
Akihito Tukushi

TORCH
KNIFE
MEASURING STICK
RIKO'S BOOT
MAGNIFYING GLASS
CLOTHES FOR GOING OUT
SCREWDRIVER
A SAMPLE OF TOOLS USED FOR INVESTIGATING A ROBOT'S FUNCTIONALITY.
DRILL
BURNING COAL

MAIL BALLOONS

THESE ARE SMALL BALLOONS USED TO TRANSPORT LETTERS AND SMALL OBJECTS FROM THE ABYSS TO THE SURFACE.

GAS TYPE



CAN CARRY A MODERATE AMOUNT OF WEIGHT.

- FUEL FOR GAS-TYPE BALLOONS CAN BE ACQUIRED WHILE IN THE ABYSS.

PLANT SEED

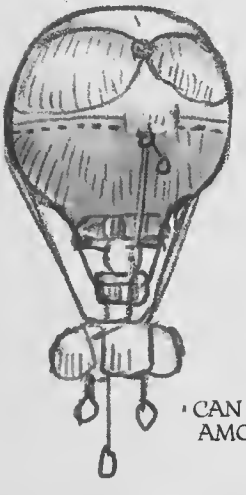
THESE SEEDS FLOAT DUE TO THE GAS INSIDE THEM, THEREBY LURING THE INSECTS OF THE ABYSS INTO EATING THEM. THEY THEN PARASITIZE THE INSECTS AND USE THEM AS SEED BEDS.

- THE SEEDS HAVE SENSORS THAT DETECT CHANGES IN THE AIR AND WILL NOT LEAVE THE ABYSS. QUITE CONVENIENTLY, THEY END UP HOVERING AROUND THE SURFACE NEAR ORTH.

CON:
THEY'RE OFTEN CONSUMED BY LARGE BIRDS OR BY INSECTS THAT MISTAKE THEIR SCENT FOR PHEROMONES.

CURRENTLY, GAS-TYPES ARE THE MOST COMMONLY USED.

HOT-AIR TYPE



- THE FLAME OFTEN GOES OUT EN ROUTE.
- SOMETIMES ENDS UP FLYING TOO HIGH INTO THE SKY.
- NOT OFTEN ATTACKED BY THE FAUNA.
- COALS MAKE FOR EXTRA WEIGHT TO CARRY.

- CAN CARRY A LIMITED AMOUNT OF WEIGHT.

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

MADE IN ABYSS

story and art by **AKIHITO TSUKUSHI** **VOLUME 1**

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MADE IN ABYSS VOLUME 1

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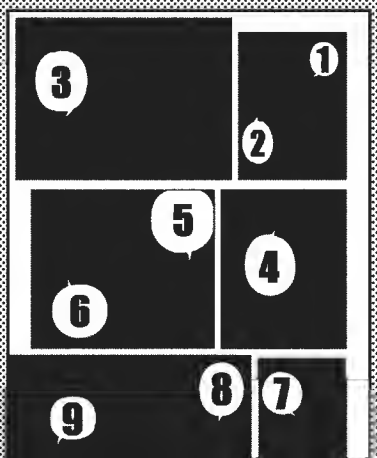
READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



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OLDER TEEN

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